Outline for Writing a Research Paper

I. Introduction- begin with Thesis Statement: In one clear sentence state the focus of your paper.
   A. Key points (have at least three, but no more than five)
      1. state each main point that you'll be making in the paper
      2. main point
      3. main point
      4. main point
      5. main point

II. Body of paper- outline the topic sentence and supporting research for each point you'll be covering in the paper, beginning with point #1 stated in the introduction.
   A. Point 1- topic sentence idea
      1. research concept
         a. supporting idea(s)
         b. connect to next concept
      2. research concept
         a. supporting idea(s)
         b. connect to next concept
      3. research concept
         a. supporting idea(s)
         b. connect to next topic idea
   B. Point 2- topic sentence idea
      1. research concept
         a. supporting idea(s)
         b. connect to next concept
      2. research concept CONTINUE FORMAT
      3. " "
   C. Point 3- topic sentence idea and CONTINUE FORMAT
   D. Point 4- topic sentence idea and CONTINUE FORMAT
   E. Point 5- topic sentence idea and CONTINUE FORMAT
      1.
      2.
      3. after last point is made and supported, create a transition to summary and conclusion

III. Summary paragraph- create a key summary sentence that declares a wrap-up of concepts to begin this paragraph
   A. Follow the summary sentence with clear sentences that summarize each of the main ideas that have been discussed in the body of the paper
      1. summary of point 1
      2. summary of point 2
      3. summary of point 3
      4. summary of point 4
      5. summary of point 5

IV. Conclusion- transition to the ending of your paper and final thoughts in a paragraph

V. Reference page in alphabetical order by last name (see APA format online and note examples from Reference section in back of textbook, and remember to cite all of your references in the body of your text following a summary concept or quote)