

Essay Outline Sample [Template]

I. **Introduction**

- A. Get the reader's attention by asking a leading question; relay something enticing about the subject in a manner that commands attention. Start with a related quote, alluring description, or narration.
- B. State the thesis, the causes and effects to be discussed; comparison of subject X and subject Y; your position on the issue; your proposal if applicable; and the main points that will develop your argument.

II. **Body**

- A. First Point, Assertion, Explanation
 1. Supporting evidence (examples, facts, statistics, quoted authorities, details, reasons, examples)
 2. Supporting evidence
 - B. Second explanation
 1. Support
 2. Support
 - C. Third explanation
 1. Support
 2. Support
 - D. Fourth explanation (continue as above with additional explanations as needed.)
 1. Support
 2. Support
 - E. Your proposal (if applicable)
 - F. Address opposing viewpoints
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III. **Closing**

- Show how explanations (causes) are logical reasons producing the effects discussed; review subject X and subject Y; reiterate your assertion and proposition (if applicable). Reemphasize your thesis in a fresh way, showing how you have achieved your purpose. If you intend to draw to a conclusion about one subject over the other, emphasize that point.
 - A. Deal with opposing views unless done above in Section F.
 - B. Appeal to the reader to see how you have come to a logical conclusion.
 - C. Make a memorable final statement.