

## Formal Research Paper Outline Template

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- Thesis statement
  - Introduce theme:
  - Must have “what” and “so what”:
  - “Road map” of argument (name your evidence; often in a second or third sentence)
  
- Section One:
  - Introduce evidence: prepare the reader for incoming information (1 short paragraph)
  - Present evidence: facts, examples, quotes, details, narrative... (1-2 longer, detailed paragraphs)
  - Provide analysis and interpretation of evidence: What does it mean? (1-2 longer, detailed paragraphs)
  - Connect evidence and argument to thesis: How does it prove your point? (1 short paragraph)
  
- Section Two:
  - Introduce evidence: prepare the reader for incoming information (1 short paragraph)
  - Present evidence: facts, examples, quotes, details, narrative... (1-2 longer, detailed paragraphs)
  - Provide analysis and interpretation of evidence: What does it mean? (1-2 longer, detailed paragraphs)
  - Connect evidence and analysis to first section: What do they have in common? How do they differ? (1 short paragraph)
  - Connect evidence and argument to thesis: How does it prove your point? (1 short paragraph)
  
- Section Three:
  - Introduce evidence: prepare the reader for incoming information (1 short paragraph)
  - Present evidence: facts, examples, quotes, details, narrative... (1-2 longer, detailed paragraphs)
  - Provide analysis and interpretation of evidence: What does it mean? (1-2 longer, detailed paragraphs)
  - Connect evidence and analysis to first body paragraph: What do they have in common? How do they differ? (1 short paragraph)
  - Connect evidence and argument to thesis: How does it prove your point? (1 short paragraph)
  
- Additional Sections:
  - Introduce evidence: prepare the reader for incoming information (1 short paragraph)
  - Present evidence: facts, examples, quotes, details, narrative... (1-2 longer, detailed paragraphs)
  - Provide analysis and interpretation of evidence: What does it mean? (1-2 longer, detailed paragraphs)
  - Connect evidence and analysis to first body paragraph: What do they have in common? How do they differ? (1 short paragraph)
  - Connect evidence and argument to thesis: How does it prove your point? (1 short paragraph)
  
- Conclusion
  - Restate thesis and main points
  - Summarize evidence
  - **Synthesize** evidence, analysis and interpretation to support thesis
  - Wrap up – What is the “big lesson” that readers should get from all of this information? How does this new knowledge or understanding apply to our world and our lives today? What does it all mean in the end? As always – “SO WHAT?”

**NOTE: Always remember to include TRANSITION sentences between sections!**