

How to set up the outline you will use for the research paper:

Title

Thesis: Write out the thesis word for word. Note these are the only 2 parts that can be in sentences. From this point on, everything else must be in words or phrases, parallel to each other.

- I. Introduction
- II. Antithesis (just use the word)
 - A. State opponent's #1 argument
 - B. State your kill or your concession
- III. Argument #1 (second strongest summarized)
 - A. First key point in support of argument #1
 1. Specific supporting detail
 2. Specific supporting detail
 - B. Second key point in support of argument #1
 1. Specific supporting detail
 2. Specific supporting detail
 - C. Third key point
 1. Specific supporting detail
 2. Specific supporting detail
 - D. Clincher
- IV. Argument #2 (3rd strongest summarized)
 - A. 1st key point
 1. Supporting detail
 2. Supporting detail
 3. Supporting detail
 4. Supporting detail
 - B. 2nd key point
 - C. 3rd key point
 1. Supporting detail
 2. Supporting detail
 - D. Clincher
- V. Argument #3 (Strongest argument summarized)
 - A. 1st key point
 1. Supporting detail
 2. Supporting detail
 - B. 2nd key point
 - C. Clincher
- VI. Conclusion

Important rules: The number of A's, B's, and C's, as well as the 1's, 2's, and 3's, may vary by paragraph. However, if there is an A, there must be a B. If there is a 1, there must be a 2.

More rules to remember:

Roman numerals

1 = I
2 = II
3 = III
4 = IV
5 = V
6 = VI
7 = VII
8 = VIII
9 = IX
10 = X

Sequence

I.
 A.
 B.
 1.
 2.
 a.
 b.
 1)
 2)
II.

- Periods should line up.
- First word in each entry is capitalized
- Then capitalize only proper nouns/adj
- Items in each level of outline must be written in parallel sentence structure
- Use words/phrases only. Do NOT write in complete sentences.
- Content of outline must match essay.