

Essay Outline

There are two different ways you can format your outline for an argumentative essay. Claim/Counterclaim Outline, or the Alternating Outline. You will handwrite or type an outline of your paper before typing a full draft.

Your outline does not need to be in full sentences, but each part of the outline should be clearly labeled. All quoted evidence should be in quotations, and all evidence should be cited.

Claim/Counterclaim Outline

I. Introduction Paragraph

- A. Hook
- B. Connect hook to claim
- C. Claim
- D. Counterclaim
- E. Transition

II. Counterclaim Paragraph

- A. Topic Sentence
- B. General Discussion
- C. Evidence 1
- D. Analysis 1
- E. Evidence 2
- F. Analysis 2
- G. Transition

III. Claim/Rebuttal Paragraph

- A. Topic Sentence
- B. General Discussion
- C. Evidence 1
- D. Analysis 1
- E. Evidence 2
- F. Analysis 2
- G. Evidence 3
- H. Analysis 3
- I. Transition

IV. Conclusion

- A. Connect back to hook
- B. Restate/rephrase claim
- C. Final Thought

Alternating Outline

I. Introduction Paragraph

- A. Hook
- B. Connect hook to claim
- C. Claim
- D. Counterclaim
- E. Transition

II. 1st Main Point Paragraph

- A. Topic Sentence
- B. General Discussion
- C. Evidence 1
- D. Analysis 1
- E. Evidence 2
- F. Analysis 2
- G. Counterpoint
- H. Evidence for Counterpoint
- I. Rebuttal
- J. Evidence for Rebuttal
- K. Analysis
- M. Transition

III. 2nd Main Point Paragraph

- A. Topic Sentence
- B. General Discussion
- C. Evidence 1
- D. Analysis 1
- E. Evidence 2
- F. Analysis 2
- G. Counterpoint
- H. Evidence for Counterpoint
- I. Rebuttal
- J. Evidence for Rebuttal
- K. Analysis
- M. Transition

IV. Conclusion

- A. Connect back to hook
- B. Restate/rephrase claim and main points
- C. Final Thought