

Preliminary Outline Form

Making an outline for an essay can be overwhelming. You start asking yourself, “What is my essay about? How am I going to back up my claims? What if I’m still unsure about how to plan an essay? How will I keep track of it all?”

If you have a *general* idea of what you want to do in your essay and you know which quotations or research information that you want to use, you’re actually in a better situation than you think. You’re ready to create a rough outline!

So, before you start structuring your ideas into a formal (also known as “traditional”) outline, use this worksheet to create a Preliminary Outline. For more help with developing a thesis statement, use the Thesis Statement Guide in the Ashford Writing Center.

Introduction - Thesis Statement: _____

Body Paragraph #1

Topic sentence: _____

Supporting evidence

Body Paragraph #2

Topic sentence: _____

Supporting evidence

Body Paragraph #3

Topic sentence: _____

Supporting evidence

Conclusion - Thesis Statement: _____