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# Argumentative Essay Outline MLA Format

## 1. Header

- Include your name, your instructor's name, the course, and the date in the upper left corner of the first page.

## 2. Title

- Center the title of your essay just above the first paragraph.

## 3. Introduction

- **Hook:** Start with an engaging statement, question, or quote to grab the reader's attention.
- **Background Information:** Provide context to introduce the reader to your topic.
- **Thesis Statement:** Clearly state your argument or position in a single sentence.

## 4. Body Paragraphs

- **Paragraph 1:**
  - **Topic Sentence:** Introduce the main point supporting your thesis.
  - **Evidence:** Provide quotations, data, or information from credible sources, cited in MLA format.
  - **Explanation:** Explain how the evidence supports your thesis.
  - **Concluding/Transition Sentence:** Conclude and transition to the next point.
- **Paragraph 2:**

- **Topic Sentence:** Outline the second point.
- **Evidence:** Provide more evidence, using proper MLA in-text citations.
- **Explanation:** Link the evidence back to your thesis.
- **Concluding/Transition Sentence:** Summarize and lead into the next paragraph.
- **Paragraph 3:**
  - **Topic Sentence:** Introduce the third main point.
  - **Evidence:** Again, provide evidence with in-text citations.
  - **Explanation:** Discuss how this evidence reinforces your thesis.
  - **Concluding Sentence:** Wrap up this point, linking back to your thesis.
- **Counterargument Paragraph (optional):**
  - **Topic Sentence:** Present a counterargument.
  - **Evidence and Explanation:** Give evidence supporting the counterargument, properly cited.
  - **Rebuttal:** Refute the counterargument with evidence and explanation, showing why your argument is stronger.

## 5. Conclusion

- **Restatement of Thesis:** Paraphrase your thesis statement, reminding the reader of your argument's strength.
- **Summary of Main Points:** Briefly recap the main arguments you have made.
- **Closing Statement:** End with a strong statement or call to action that reinforces your thesis and leaves an impact.

## 6. Works Cited

- Begin on a new page at the end of your essay.
- Title this page "Works Cited" and center the title at the top of the page.
- List all references in alphabetical order by the authors' last names.
- Use hanging indentations for each entry.

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- Ensure each entry is formatted according to MLA guidelines.