

# Standard Essay Outline

## **I. Introduction Paragraph (3-4 Sentences)**

### **a. Develop Context (1-2 Sentences)**

- i. Using any historical background information provided in the question and outside knowledge, write about the who, what, where, and when of the question.

### **b. Raise the Question (1 Sentence)**

- i. Write a sentence that flows naturally from the context sentences and formally asks the question.

### **c. Thesis (1 Sentence)**

- i. Write **1 sentence** with multiple, distinct, parts that directly answers the question stated in the previous sentence.
- ii. The multiple parts of the thesis are referred to as **claims** and each will be covered in an individual paragraph called a claim paragraph.
- iii. An analytic thesis will make clear connections between the claims.

## **II. Claim Paragraph 1 (5-7 Sentences)**

### **a. Topic Sentence That States the Claim (1 Sentence)**

- i. Write a topic sentence that summarizes one claim from the thesis.

### **b. Evidence (Examples) and Logic (Explanation) (4-6 Sentences)**

- i. Present **and** explain at least 3 pieces of specific evidence (people, places, events, ideas, trends, etc.) to illustrate the claim.

## **III. Claim Paragraph 2 (5-7 Sentences)**

### **a. Topic Sentence That States the Claim (1 Sentence)**

- i. Write a topic sentence that summarizes one claim from the thesis.
- ii. If possible, provide analysis in this sentence by connecting the current claim to the previous claim.

### **b. Evidence (Examples) and Logic (Explanation) (4-6 Sentences)**

- i. Present **and** explain at least 3 pieces of specific evidence (people, places, events, ideas, trends, etc.) to illustrate the claim.

## **IV. Claim Paragraph 3 (5-7 Sentences)**

### **a. Topic Sentence That States the Claim (1 Sentence)**

- i. Write a topic sentence that summarizes one claim from the thesis.
- ii. If possible, provide analysis in this sentence by connecting the current claim to the previous claims.

### **b. Evidence (Examples) and Logic (Explanation) (4-6 Sentences)**

- i. Present **and** explain at least 3 pieces of specific evidence (people, places, events, ideas, trends, etc.) to illustrate the claim.