

# Outline for Writing a Research Paper

## **I. Introduction**

- a. Begin with a hook. Grab your reader's attention.
- b. Highlight background information on your topic needed to understand the direction of your paper.
- c. Give an overview of your topic and the issues you will discuss in your paper.
- d. Define key terminology needed to understand the topic.
- e. Write a thesis statement:
  1. Tell what the overall paper will focus on
  2. Briefly outline the main point of the paper

## **II. Body**—clearly present the main points of the paper; give strong examples, details, and explanations to support the main points; support may be paraphrases, summaries, and/or quotations.

### **a. Topic Sentence (Main Point #1)**

- i. Explain
- ii. Elaborate
- iii. Example Paraphrase/Summary/Quote
- iv. End paragraph with a transition sentence that connects to next concept.

### **b. Topic Sentence (Main Point #2)**

- i. Explain
- ii. Elaborate
- iii. Example Paraphrase/Summary/Quote
- iv. End paragraph with a transition sentence that connects to next concept.

### **c. Topic Sentence (Main Point #3) and details—continue format**

### **d. Topic Sentence (Main Point #4) and details—continue format**

## **III. Conclusion**

- a. Restate your thesis from the introduction (using different words)
- b. End with final thoughts on your paper—perhaps an appropriate meaningful sentence that ties the whole paper together.