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## Essay Outline (use this template as a guide for organizing your essay; adjust it as needed)

**Title** \_\_\_\_\_

**Introduction** (catches reader's interest; provides a context for the paper; develops from general to specific)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Thesis Statement** (is usually last sentence in introduction; defines purpose of paper; often identifies sub-topics)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**1<sup>st</sup> Support Paragraph** (is often the second strongest sub-topic)

**Topic Sentence** (connects to thesis; introduces main idea of paragraph; allows for elaboration of ideas)

Supporting detail #1 (supports and helps to prove topic sentence)

Example 1 (supplements supporting detail; provides most specific points)

Example 2

Supporting detail #2

Example 1

Example 2

Transition sentence (links current paragraph to next paragraph; provides flow throughout essay)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Support Paragraph** (is often least strong sub-topic)

**Topic Sentence**

Supporting detail #1

Example 1

Example 2

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Supporting detail #2

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Example 1

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Example 2

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Transition sentence (links current paragraph to next paragraph; provides flow throughout essay)

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**3<sup>rd</sup> Support Paragraph** (is usually strongest sub-topic)

**Topic Sentence**

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Supporting detail #1

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Example 1

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Example 2

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Supporting detail #2

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Example 1

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Example 2

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Transition sentence (links current paragraph to next paragraph; provides flow throughout essay)

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**Conclusion** (restates thesis in different words; summarizes key points; ties paper together; provides a final thought)

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## **References/Works Cited/Bibliography**

- Cite all information that is not common knowledge and/or the writer's thought or opinion in the text of the paper
- Record the citation information directly onto the outline to avoid errors and omissions
- Provide a complete, detailed list of all sources at the end of the paper
- Follow a consistent citation format as per assignment requirements