

Essay Outline: Fill in either of the templates below for your essay.

Choose only one of them.

> Introduction

Get the reader's attention by asking a leading question; relay something enticing about the subject in a manner that commands attention. Start with a related quote, alluring description, or narration.

State the thesis—the causes and effects to be discussed; comparison of subject X and subject Y; your position on the issue; your proposal if applicable; and the main points that will develop your argument.

> Body

~First Point, Assertion, Explanation

• Supporting evidence (examples, facts, statistics, quoted authorities, details, reasons, examples)

• Supporting evidence

~Second explanation

• Support

• Support

~Third explanation

• Support

• Support

~Fourth explanation (continue as above with additional explanations as needed.)

• Support

• Support

Your proposal (if applicable)

Address opposing viewpoints

> Conclusion

Show how explanations (causes) are logical reasons producing the effects discussed; review subject X and subject Y; reiterate your assertion and proposition (if applicable). Reemphasize your thesis in a fresh way, showing how you have achieved your purpose. If you intend to draw to a conclusion about one subject over the other, emphasize that point.

Deal with opposing views unless done above in Section F.

Appeal to the reader to see how you have come to a logical conclusion.

Make a memorable final statement.

OR

Here's a more detailed TRIAC template you can use to develop your essay.

PARAGRAPH 1

THESIS STATEMENT—a general introduction to your essay, stating a topic plus a point.

PARAGRAPH 2

Still part of your thesis or introduction—now give a little detail about what you are going to talk about, and break it down into, let's say, three sections or topics. Include these topics or points as your three KEY TERMS

Key Term 1

Key Term 2

Key Term 3

PARAGRAPH 3

TOPIC SENTENCE WITH KEY TERM 1

Now you are getting into the body of the essay—the section that is made up of “I-A's”—Illustrations and Arguments (or comparisons, scenes, anecdotes, explanations). Start this paragraph with a topic sentence, stating what you're going to talk about—mentioning KEY TERM 1. Keep each paragraph focused on its own Key Term.

“Let's first look at how “Key Term” 1 effects . . .” for example. Remember to support what you say with evidence or detail. Each paragraph will have illustrations and arguments (or claims).

Be ready to include another paragraph here—call it 3 (a)—if you need to develop ideas.

PARAGRAPH 4

TOPIC SENTENCE WITH KEY TERM 2

Here you deal with Key Term 2. Again, start with a topic sentence declaring your direction, and use Key Term 2 in it. Illustrate the term (with examples), and argue (or explain, or describe) your point, position, concept, or scene.

Be ready to include another paragraph here—call it 4 (a)—if you need to develop ideas.

PARAGRAPH 5

TOPIC SENTENCE WITH KEY TERM 3

Another topic sentence built around Key Term 3. State where you are going with this part of the argument and how it's related to the points you've made above. (Are you happy with the order of your paragraphs? Is the order logical and effective?)

Be ready to include another paragraph here—call it 5 (a)—if you need to develop ideas.

Address opposing viewpoints.

CONCLUSION

Now you sum up what you've said and argued, or illustrated, or compared, etc., by referring to the general sweep of your essay. Then mention the Key Terms again, what you've demonstrated with them, and state your thesis statement again—to show you've proved it, made it credible, and recognized the lesson you've learned or realization you've made.

You'll have 6-8 self-contained paragraphs now, and a good 4-5-page essay, or more.