Problem/Solution Outline

Organizing your ideas and planning your paper is an important part of the writing process. An outline will help keep you focused as you write your problem/solution research paper.

**Introduction Paragraph**

Hook: W*hat type of hook do you want to use? A shocking statistic? A quote? A short, anecdotal story?*

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Background Info: B*riefly explain the problem you are going to write about. Remember you aren’t getting into your argument yet. I shouldn’t know which solution you are arguing for until I get to your thesis.*

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Significance of Issue: *You should show why this paper needs to be written. What is being debated, is not resolved, or is not yet fully understood?*

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Thesis: You should build a thesis for this paper by clearing indicating which solution you will be arguing for in your paper.

Examples:

* Although some people think that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, in reality \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_ is clearly the right choice despite the understandable concerns about \_\_\_\_\_\_.
* In order to best meet the needs of \_\_\_\_, the best solution will be to \_\_\_\_\_\_ .

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**Body Paragraph: Support the solution**

Reason #1 —*the first reason to support your solution*

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Evidence—*What evidence from your sources do you think would effectively support this reason?*

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Explain—*Why does this evidence prove your claim? (Explanation/analysis usually takes several sentences.)*

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**Body Paragraph: Support the solution**

Reason #2 — *the second reason to support your solution*

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Evidence— *What evidence from your sources do you think would effectively support this reason?*

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Explain—*Why does this evidence prove your claim? (Explanation/analysis usually takes several sentences.)*

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**Body Paragraph: Support the solution**

Reason — *the third reason to support your solution*

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Evidence— *What evidence from your sources do you think would effectively support this reason?*

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Explain—*Why does this evidence prove your claim? (Explanation/analysis usually takes several sentences.)*

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**Body Paragraph: Support the solution**

Reason — *the fourth reason to support your solution*

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Evidence— *What evidence from your sources do you think would effectively support this reason?*

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Explain—*Why does this evidence prove your claim? (Explanation/analysis usually takes several sentences.)*

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**Body Paragraph: Overcome opposition**

Counterargument — *Why would people disagree with you or not support your solution?*

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Rebuttal — *How will you handle this disagreement? Why is this counterargument wrong?*

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**Body Paragraph: Overcome opposition**

Counterargument — *Why would people disagree with you or not support your solution?*

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Rebuttal — *How will you handle this disagreement? Why is this counterargument wrong?*

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**Conclusion Paragraph**

Your conclusion should answer the question “So what?” Show your readers why this paper was important, meaningful, and useful. Give your readers something to think about, such as how to apply the paper to their lives or how to use your paper in the “real world.”

Possible strategies for a conclusion:

1. **Echoing the introduction.** Echoing your introduction can be a good strategy to bring the readers full circle. If you begin by describing a scenario, you can end with the same scenario as proof that your paper was helpful in creating a new understanding.
2. **Challenging the reader.** By issuing a challenge to your readers, you are helping them to redirect the information in the paper, and they may apply it to their own lives.
3. **Looking to the future.** Looking to the future can emphasize the importance of your paper and redirect the readers’ thought processes. It may help them apply the new information to their lives or see things more globally.

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