
FORMAT FOR RESEARCH PAPER OUTLINE

- I. Introduction
 - A. Overview of the issue you are examining
 - B. Overview of what your paper will cover, and how this will be accomplished
 - C. Thesis statement

- II. The Issue
 - A. History behind the issue
 - B. Challenge posed by the issue
 - C. How the issue impacts society in general
 - D. Possible solutions to resolve the issue that occurred to you before conducting your research

- III. Literature Review
 - A. Theoretical/Exploratory literature (journal articles, textbooks)
 - 1. Overview/summary of each theory and/or explanation
 - 2. Relevance of each theory/explanation to the issue
 - 3. Application and utility of theoretical/exploratory findings to the issue
 - B. Empirical literature (journal articles) – For each study:
 - 1. Overview of the empirical study
 - 2. Summary of methodology
 - 3. Summary of the relevant/key findings related to the issue
 - 4. Critique of the study
 - a. Was it well thought out and designed?
 - b. Were seemingly appropriate methods utilized?
 - c. Were the findings applicable to your thesis?
 - 1) If so, how?
 - 2) If not, why?
 - C. Summary
 - 1. Cohesive summary of all relevant findings, theoretical, exploratory, and empirical

- IV. Recommendations
 - A. What can be learned from your research?
 - 1. Recommendations
 - 2. To whom or what are the recommendations relevant to, and why?

- V. Conclusion
 - A. Recap the importance of your topic (no new information!)
 - B. Revisit your thesis statement (did you find support or no support?)
 - C. Conclusions based upon information derived from the literature

- VI. Assessment of Research Paper Writing Process
 - A. How the procedures (i.e., steps followed) worked
 - B. What you learned
 - C. How this assignment may impact your career goals