

## Outline Planning Sheet – Research Paper

### I. Thesis Paragraph

A. Hook: Why is your inquiry important to the reader? Why should the reader care?

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B. Thesis statement that shows, in total, what you are trying to show about the topic.

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C. Method of development – lay out in summary form the ideas you will write about to support your thesis. (MOD is often built from body paragraph topic sentences in a shorter research papers)

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### II. Background Paragraph - Information about your topic that is helpful to understanding both sides of your issue.

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A. Evidence from note card \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(\_\_\_\_\_).

B. Evidence from note card \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(\_\_\_\_\_).

C. Evidence from note card \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(\_\_\_\_\_).

III. Body Paragraph: Topic sentence that includes the **first “PRO”** idea from your method of development that you will use to prove your thesis.

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A. Evidence from note card \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
( \_\_\_\_\_ ).

B. Evidence from note card \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
( \_\_\_\_\_ ).

C. Evidence from note card \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
( \_\_\_\_\_ ).

IV. Body Paragraph - Topic sentence that includes the **second “PRO”** idea from your method of development that you will use to prove your thesis.

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D. Evidence from note card \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
( \_\_\_\_\_ ).

E. Evidence from note card \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
( \_\_\_\_\_ ).

F. Evidence from note card \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
( \_\_\_\_\_ ).

V. Body Paragraph. Topic sentence that includes the **first** “**CON**” idea from your method of development that you will use to prove your thesis.

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A. Evidence from note card \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
( \_\_\_\_\_ ).

B. Evidence from note card \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
( \_\_\_\_\_ ).

C. Evidence from note card \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
( \_\_\_\_\_ ).

VI. Body paragraph: Topic sentence that includes the **second** “**CON**” idea from your method of development that you will use to prove your thesis.

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A. Evidence from note card \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
( \_\_\_\_\_ ).

B. Evidence from note card \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
( \_\_\_\_\_ ).

C. Evidence from note card \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
( \_\_\_\_\_ ).

VII. Synthesis Paragraph: Topic sentence organizing a paragraph/section in which you explain what you think is the best position or approach to the issue in light of your consideration of the evidence.

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A. Evidence from note card \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
( \_\_\_\_\_ ).

B. Evidence from note card \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
( \_\_\_\_\_ ).

C. Evidence from note card \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
( \_\_\_\_\_ ).

VIII. Conclusion – [Remember that the final research paper should be approximately 3-6 pages long, well researched, clearly written, and must include an updated works cited page.]

A. Revisit the thesis but **do not** restate using the same words \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

B. Tie up your investigation. May include a prediction, a call to action, and/or ideas for next steps to resolve the issue or question \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_