

Formatting the Outline

An outline is basically a simple list of the points you will make and information you will use in your paper. If you used note cards, it is helpful to sort the note cards into different categories before writing your outline.

An outline is supposed to make writing your paper easier because it helps you organize your ideas before you sit down to write. Some outlines are brief, but others are quite detailed. If you have trouble formatting on Google Docs, please reference "[Google Doc Formatting Tips.](#)"

Full MLA Heading

Working Title

Thesis: Although she appears not to care, my teacher insists that her students use only compound, complex or compound-complex sentences in order to write strong thesis statements and topic sentences.

I. Topic Sentence of Body Paragraph #1 (full sentence)

A. Major detail #1 that supports topic sentence (citation)

1. *minor detail* that supports Major Detail #1 (citation)

2. *minor detail* that supports minor detail (citation)

3. *minor detail* that supports minor detail (citation)

4. *minor detail* that supports Major Detail #1 (citation)

B. Major Detail #2 that supports topic sentence (citation)

1. *minor detail* that supports Major Detail #2 (citation)

2. *minor detail* that supports Major Detail #2 (citation)

II. Topic Sentence of Body Paragraph #2 (full sentence)

A. Major Detail #1 that supports topic sentence (citation)

1. *minor detail* that supports Major Detail #2 (citation)

2. *minor detail* that supports Major Detail #2 (citation)