

## Outline Template

This outline is for a piece of informational or persuasive writing. You've most likely been told that an essay consists of an introduction with a hook and thesis, a body of supporting arguments, and a conclusion. This outline contains each of these traditional pieces of an essay, but with added questions to help guide your thoughts and more easily transfer them from your head to the paper. The idea is that once you've answered one or more questions in each section, you will have a clear outline to add to, organize into paragraphs, and edit. You do not need to answer every question in each section; choose which question/s pertain to the content you are writing. (For example, in the Application section, you may not have a specific call to action, but you will want to explain how the readers can apply this information to their lives.) Good luck!

### Introduction

Hook:

Why does this matter to my reader? | What happened that made me want to write this piece? | What problem can be solved with information I have?

Thesis/Main Premise:

What point am I trying to make? | What have I learned that my reader would like to know? | What in my or my readers' lives needs to change?

### Body

Background:

What facts need to be established for my reader to follow the argument? | Why is it important that I write this article?

Point #1:

How did I determine my premise? | What fact/s did I find that support or prove my thesis? | Is there an anecdote that explains or illustrates my thesis? | What is a common or persuasive argument against my premise, and what is my counter-argument?

*Preferably you will have more than one point in your article. Repeat either of these two sections as needed in order to fully explain your thesis.*

### Conclusion

Application:

How can my readers use this new knowledge in their lives? | What problem did my thesis solve, and how? | What is my call to action? | What did I change in my own life when I learned this information?