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ENG 190 Module Four Persuasive Essay Outline Template

Directions for Using the Outline

An outline is a tool that writers use to organize their ideas. For some writers, it works best to write out all their ideas and then organize them. For other writers, it works best to organize and then draft. The outline also provides a structured way to lay out your ideas so that you can get early feedback on your organization and argument.

You will use this outline for your discussion by simply replacing the [enter text] sections with your own words, leaving the rest of the outline intact. The goal is for you to have a structured way to get started and share your ideas. For the sake of the discussion, you only need to fill in the sentence starters presented in the template below; you do not yet need to expand on your ideas.

Later, when you complete your first draft, you will go beyond the sentence starters to build robust and cohesive paragraphs. If you use the outline as a starting place for your draft, remember to remove the headers and definitions before submitting your draft. Please see the exemplar for the final project to get an idea of how both your draft and finished essay should look.

1. **Introduction** (See Chapter 36 for additional guidance on drafting an introduction.)

- a. **Hook:** The “hook” is the first sentence of your essay. It should catch the reader’s attention, giving the audience a sense of why the topic is interesting. (See Chapter 3 for additional guidance on audience.)

Hook Template: Recently, the topic of [replace this text with a statement of your topic] has forced us to consider some difficult questions, including [replace this text with a brief description of the specific debate within your topic that you’ll be focusing on].

- b. **Context:** Before presenting your thesis, provide any necessary context regarding your topic and the current debate on your topic.

Context Template: Historically, the answers to these questions were simpler because [replace this text with a brief explanation of why this topic was previously less controversial]. However, since the advent of [replace this text with the specific change that brought your topic into the spotlight], we have seen changes in [replace this text with the aspect of your topic that has recently changed] which have forced scholars to grapple with [replace this text with a brief description of the controversial aspect of the topic].

- c. **Thesis:** The thesis presents your unique claim and lists your key points. The thesis is an answer to your research question. (See **Chapter 24 for additional guidance on drafting a thesis.**)

Thesis Template: To address [replace this text with a statement of the specific problem related to your topic], [replace this text by naming a specific entity that must implement a change] must [replace this text with a statement of the specific change that you will argue for in your essay] because [replace this text with one reason why this change will be effective], [state another reason why this change will be effective], and [state one more reason why this change will be effective].

2. **Body Paragraph One** (See Chapter 34 for additional guidance on drafting body paragraphs.)

- a. **Key Point:** The first sentence of each body paragraph states one of your key points, or one reason why your thesis is valid.

Topic Sentence Template: One way in which [state specific action you're proposing] will alleviate [state the specific problem you're hoping to solve] is [state your first reason for why your solution/thesis will

work].

- b. **Counterargument and Rebuttal:** In the counterargument and rebuttal, you will anticipate objections to your key point and offer a rebuttal.

Counterargument and Rebuttal Template: While some may argue that [state a potential counterargument], we also know that [state your rebuttal to the potential counterargument].

- c. **Illustration/Example:**

Illustration/Example Template: According to [replace this text with the full name of the author of your source], it is imperative that we consider [replace this text with a quote or paraphrase from your source] if we wish to [replace this text with an additional quote or paraphrase from your source].

- d. **Explanation/Analysis/Tie-Back:** The final sentence of each body paragraph ties your paragraph together and reconnects to the thesis.

Tie-Back Template: If we hope to accomplish [replace this text with a very brief statement of what you hope to accomplish], we must consider [replace this text with a restatement of your thesis in the context of this paragraph's point].

3. Body Paragraph Two

- a. **Key Point:** The first sentence of each body paragraph states one of your key points, or one reason why your thesis is valid.

Topic Sentence Template: One way in which [state specific action you're proposing] will alleviate [state the specific problem you're hoping to solve] is [state your first reason for why your solution/thesis will work].

- b. **Counterargument and Rebuttal:** In the counterargument and rebuttal, you will anticipate objections to your key point and offer a rebuttal.

Counterargument and Rebuttal: While some may argue that [state a potential counterargument], we also know that [state your rebuttal to the potential counterargument].

- c. **Illustration/Example:**

Illustration/Example Template: According to [replace this text with the full name of the author of your source], it is imperative that we consider [replace this text with a quote or paraphrase from your source] if we wish to [replace this text with an additional quote or paraphrase from your source].

- d. **Explanation/Analysis/Tie-Back:** The final sentence of each body paragraph ties your paragraph together and reconnects to the thesis.

Tie-Back Template: If we hope to accomplish [replace this text with a very brief statement of what you hope to accomplish], we must consider [replace this text with a restatement of your thesis in the context of this paragraph's point].

4. Body Paragraph Three

- a. **Key Point:** The first sentence of each body paragraph states one of your key points, or one reason why your thesis is valid.

Topic Sentence Template: One way in which [state specific action you're proposing] will alleviate [state the specific problem you're hoping to solve] is [state your first reason for why your solution/thesis will work].

- b. **Counterargument and Rebuttal:** In the counterargument and rebuttal, you will anticipate

objections to your key point and offer a rebuttal.

Counterargument and Rebuttal Template: While some may argue that [state a potential counterargument], we also know that [state your rebuttal to the potential counterargument].

c. Illustration/Example:

Illustration/Example Template: According to [replace this text with the full name of the author of your source], it is imperative that we consider [replace this text with a quote or paraphrase from your source] if we wish to [replace this text with an additional quote or paraphrase from your source].

d. Explanation/Analysis/Tie-Back: The final sentence of each body paragraph ties your paragraph together and reconnects to the thesis.

Tie-Back Template: If we hope to accomplish [replace this text with a very brief statement of what you hope to accomplish], we must consider [replace this text with a restatement of your thesis in the context of this paragraph's point].

5. Conclusion (See Chapter 36 for additional guidance on drafting a conclusion. See also Chapter 3 for additional guidance on audience.)

- a. In conclusion, in order for [state the positive outcome you are arguing for in your essay] to happen, [restate the specific entity that must implement the change] must first [restate the specific action that must be taken]. If [restate specific entity] does not take action, the consequences will be [describe the worst-case scenario].



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