

Writing Research Papers Week 3: Sort it out and line it up! (Outlining)

Why make an outline?

- to organize your information
- to see if you have enough information to write your paper
- to see the relationship between pieces of information and choose which ones will go into your paper

List all ideas/pieces of information

Group related ones together

Put them in order (order of importance, chronological, location, etc.)

Create your outline

Get clear on your purpose and audience.

Work on what you want in your thesis statement. Remember to state your main point, be specific, and tell the reader why it matters.

Your outline should be consistent throughout.

Each point should have the same significance as other points in the same level. For example, each of your roman numerals should be of equal importance, and so on.

Each point should be more significant than the points under it.

Each level of the outline should have at least two points. If you don't have at least two points for each level, go back and do more research.

Sample outline:

A Balanced Diet

I. Introduction

- A. Nutrient groups
- B. How nutrients interact

II. Proteins

- A. Purpose: gain muscle, help regulate blood sugar
- B. Amount per day: .36 grams per pound of body weight
- C. Example foods: beef, chicken, eggs

III. Carbohydrates

- A. Purpose: energy
- B. Amount per day: 45-64 percent of daily calories
- C. Example foods: fruits, starchy vegetables, grains, sugar

IV. Fats

- A. Purpose: temperature regulation, nutrient absorption

- B. Amount per day: 20-35 percent of daily calories
- C. Example foods: avocados, nuts, oils

V. Conclusion

- A. Nutrient groups
- B. Challenge for readers

The next page has a template for an outline that you can print and fill out.

I. _____

A. _____

1. _____

2. _____

B. _____

1. _____

2. _____

II. _____

A. _____

1. _____

2. _____

B. _____

1. _____

2. _____

III.

A. _____

1. _____

2. _____

B. _____

1. _____

2. _____

IV.

A. _____

1. _____

2. _____

B. _____

1. _____

2. _____

V.

A. _____

1. _____

2. _____

B. _____

1. _____

2. _____