

## **Academic Research Paper Outline (Turabian Style)**

Paper Topic:

Length:

Due Date:

Research Question (what are you trying to discover or learn about your topic):

**Thesis** (Answer to Research Question, what defensible conclusion have you drawn about your topic?):

**I. Introduction** (generally half a page; should do what it says and “introduce your argument for your reader)

A. Hook- Interesting thought or statement to grab readers

B. Brief background/context of topic

C. Walk through/Summary of main points in paper

D. Thesis Statement (Include thesis towards the end of your introductory paragraph.)

**Transitional thought to first supporting point:**

**II. 1<sup>st</sup> Supporting Point to Your Thesis**

A. Background/Context of Topic (to orient your reader to your topic and provide a good foundation for your coming argument)

1. Definitions of terminology related to topic
2. Introduce key themes, events, and people

#### B. Analysis of 1<sup>st</sup> Supporting Point

1. Discuss varying viewpoints of your topic
  - a) Examples/Details
  - b) Explanation
2. Importance of this information to your argument/thesis
  - a) 1<sup>st</sup> piece of supporting information
  - b) 2<sup>nd</sup> piece of supporting information

Transitional thought to second supporting point:

#### III. 2<sup>nd</sup> Supporting Point to Your Thesis

##### A. Lead into 2<sup>nd</sup> Point

- 1.
- 2.

##### B. Analysis of 2<sup>nd</sup> Point

1.
  - a) Examples/Details

b) Explanation

2. Importance of 2<sup>nd</sup> point to argument/thesis

a) 1<sup>st</sup> piece of supporting information

b) 2<sup>nd</sup> piece of supporting information

Transitional Thought:

IV. 3<sup>rd</sup> Supporting Point

A. Lead into 3<sup>rd</sup> Supporting Point

1.

2.

B. Analysis of 3<sup>rd</sup> Supporting Point

1.

a) Examples/Details

b) Explanation

2. Importance of point to argument/thesis

a) 1<sup>st</sup> piece of supporting information

b) 2<sup>nd</sup> piece of supporting information

Transitional Thought:

## V. Conclusion

A. Retrace the steps of your argument

B. Restate your thesis in a new way

C. Leave your reader with interesting concluding or summarizing thought/s.

## Bibliography

Research for Understanding: Reference Materials

Research for Familiarity: Books

Research for Mastery: Journal Articles