

Analytical Essay Outline Template

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Hook: [Your attention-grabbing opening—a quote, question, or surprising fact]
- B. Context: [2-3 sentences of background the reader needs]
- C. Thesis: [Your main argument in one clear sentence]

II. BODY PARAGRAPH 1

- A. Topic sentence: [First point supporting your thesis]
- B. Evidence: [Quote, fact, or example from your source]
- C. Analysis: [Explain HOW this evidence supports your point—this is the "so what?"]
- D. Transition: [Bridge to next paragraph]

III. BODY PARAGRAPH 2

- A. Topic sentence: [Second point supporting your thesis]
- B. Evidence: [Quote, fact, or example]
- C. Analysis: [Your interpretation and explanation]
- D. Transition: [Bridge to next paragraph]

IV. BODY PARAGRAPH 3

- A. Topic sentence: [Third point supporting your thesis]
- B. Evidence: [Quote, fact, or example]
- C. Analysis: [Your interpretation]
- D. Transition: [Bridge to conclusion]

V. CONCLUSION

- A. Restate thesis: [Rephrase your argument—don't copy]
- B. Summarize: [Brief recap of your main points]

C. So what?: [Why this matters / broader implication]