

# Rogerian Outline – Filled Example

## I. Introduction

- **A. Hook or issue introduction:** Social media is the primary source of news for millions of people, yet misinformation spreads rapidly, affecting public health, elections, and societal trust.
- **B. Background and context:** Platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and TikTok have policies, but inconsistent enforcement allows false information to flourish. People are divided on whether platforms should intervene more aggressively.

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## II. Summary of Opposing View

- **A. Opposing position explained fairly:** Critics believe that requiring platforms to regulate misinformation risks censorship and threatens freedom of speech.
- **B. Evidence or reasoning supporting opposing view:** Forcing moderation could let private companies control what information is visible, limiting public discourse.
- **C. Acknowledgment of validity:** It is valid to be concerned about free speech and the power concentrated in corporate hands.

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## III. Statement of Common Ground

- **A. Shared values or goals:** Both sides agree that accurate information is important and that people should have access to truthful, reliable news.
- **B. Areas of agreement:** Everyone wants to prevent harm caused by false information while protecting individual rights and societal trust.

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## IV. Writer's Position

- **A. Thesis or claim presented respectfully:** Social media platforms should regulate misinformation responsibly, balancing accuracy with freedom of speech.
- **B. Reason 1 with explanation:** Misinformation on COVID-19 led to preventable deaths, showing the public harm that can result.
- **C. Reason 2 with explanation:** Misinformation about elections threatens democratic integrity, creating confusion and distrust among voters.

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## V. Benefits to Opposing Side

- **A. How the proposed solution helps both sides:** Regulating misinformation reduces harm while maintaining a transparent system of checks, preserving both safety and free expression.
- **B. Practical or ethical advantages:** Independent oversight and clear guidelines allow companies to act without abusing power, ensuring both safety and fairness.

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## VI. Conclusion

- **A. Restated position:** Social media platforms must take responsible action to limit misinformation while respecting freedom of speech.
- **B. Emphasis on cooperation or compromise:** By creating transparent, balanced moderation policies, platforms can protect the public, support democracy, and address concerns about overreach.

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