

Research Paper Outline

I. Title Page

- Paper title
- Student name
- Course name and number
- Instructor name
- Submission date

II. Introduction

- Brief background that situates the topic
- Problem statement or issue being addressed
- Research question
- Thesis statement
- Short roadmap of the paper

III. Literature Review (if required)

- **Theme 1:** Key findings or dominant positions
- **Theme 2:** Conflicting views or debates
- **Theme 3:** Gaps, limits, or unresolved issues
- Synthesis of what existing research establishes

IV. Methodology (for empirical or technical papers)

- Research design or approach
- Data or evidence sources
- Procedures for collection or analysis
- Limitations affecting interpretation

V. Body Sections: Argument and Analysis

A. Body Section 1

- Main claim
- Supporting evidence
- Analysis linking evidence to the thesis

B. Body Section 2

- Main claim
- Supporting evidence
- Analysis

C. Body Section 3 (if needed)

- Main claim
- Supporting evidence
- Analysis

VI. Counterarguments (if applicable)

- Presentation of opposing position
- Evidence supporting that position
- Response defending the thesis

VII. Discussion

- Interpretation of findings
- Connection back to the research question
- Implications of the argument or results

VIII. Conclusion

- Restated thesis in refined form
- Summary of key arguments
- Significance of findings
- Directions for future research

IX. References

- Full citations formatted in the required style

X. Appendices (if applicable)

- Supplementary tables, figures, or materials