

Basic Research Paper Outline Template

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1. Introduction

- a. Hook
- b. Research Question
- c. Thesis Statement

2. Body Paragraphs*

- a. Context and History of Research Topic
- b. Existing Arguments
 - i. First argument
 1. citation
 2. citation
 - ii. Second argument
 1. citation
 2. citation
 - iii. etc.
- c. Your Argument
 - i. First argument
 1. citation
 2. citation
 - ii. Second argument
 1. citation
 2. citation
 3. etc.

3. Conclusion

- a. Summary of main points
 - i. Point 1
 - ii. Point 2
 - iii. etc.
- b. Answer: why does this research matter?

*Note there is no set number of body paragraphs in a research paper. Just make sure to clearly connect your ideas from one to the next using transitions.

[Check out these example research papers.](#)

Also read [How to Craft a Research Paper Outline](#)