



How To Outline An Essay



Step 1: Brainstorming

- Brainstorming is a great way to help you figure out your claim and what will support it!
- Claim: what you are trying to explain or prove in your essay
- Your *main* goal in brainstorming: figure out what pieces of evidence will guide your paper
- Try:
 - Jotting down what inspires you about your topic on a piece of paper
 - Write down all the “reasons” that you could use to prove your claim
- The final step in Brainstorming is to choose what works best for your claim



Step 2: Outlining Your Thesis

- 3 Step modifiable thesis outline
 - Your thesis can be outlined like this: “Blank1 is blank2 because of blank3, blank4, and blank5”
- This is where the brainstorming comes in handy y’all!
- **Blank 1** is your topic
 - “**Cookie Dough Ice cream** is blank2 because of blank3, blank4, and blank5”
- **Blank 2** is what you are trying to prove about your topic (your opinion or the side you are taking)
 - “Cookie Dough Ice cream is **the best flavor of ice cream** because of blank3, blank4, and blank5”
- **Blanks 3, 4, and 5** are the reasons that you brainstormed (choose your favorites)
 - “Cookie Dough Ice cream is the best flavor of ice cream because it **has cookie dough as an extra bonus to the actual ice cream, a warm vanilla flavor, a nostalgic childhood feel.**”



Step 3: Paragraph Organization

- Organize the claims and evidence you will use to work towards your essays main point
- Decide how many paragraphs you want and then organize that way
- Write it out so that when it comes to actually doing your paper you don't have to waste time looking
- Paragraph 1:
 - Claim of the paragraph
 - Evidence
 - Evidence