Research Paper Outline

This assignment is due on **Wednesday, April 29**. Please type your outline out and bring two copies of it to class on Wednesday.

Why and How to Create a Useful Outline

Why create an outline? There are many reasons; but in general, it may be helpful to create an outline when you want to show the hierarchical relationship or logical ordering of information. For research papers, an outline may help you keep track of large amounts of information. For creative writing, an outline may help organize the various plot threads and help keep track of character traits. Many people find that organizing an oral report or presentation in outline form helps them speak more effectively in front of a crowd. Below are the primary reasons for creating an outline.

- Aids in the process of writing
- Helps you organize your ideas
- Presents your material in a logical form
- Shows the relationships among ideas in your writing
- Constructs an ordered overview of your writing
- Defines boundaries and groups

How do I create an outline?

- Determine the purpose of your paper.
- Determine the audience you are writing for.
- Develop the thesis of your paper.

Then:

- **Brainstorm**: List all the ideas that you want to include in your paper.
- **Organize**: Group related ideas together.
- **Order**: Arrange material in subsections from general to specific or from abstract to concrete.
- **Label**: Create main and sub headings.

Remember: creating an outline before writing your paper will make organizing your thoughts a lot easier. Whether you follow the suggested guidelines is up to you, but making any kind of outline (even just some jotting down some main ideas) will be beneficial to your writing process.

Balancing an outline

Your paper will probably be more effective if you try to present your findings so that the different parts are about the same length. If you are researching two books, for example, you should give approximately the same space to each.

Title "The Benefits of Running"

I. Introduction
    A. Running is becoming an extremely popular sport for all ages.
    B. Running is a great form of exercise because it helps people control their weight, develop muscles, and improves mental and physical performance.
II. Body
    A. Weight control
        1. Aids self-control
        2. Burns calories
        3. Encourages a healthy diet
        4. Suppresses appetite
    B. Muscular Development
        1. Improves tone
        2. Enhances contours
        3. Increases strength
        4. Improves endurance
    C. Psychological well-being
        1. Aids sleep
        2. Inhibits depression
        3. Intensifies vitality
    D. Cardiovascular Fitness
        1. Strengthens heart
        2. Lowers blood pressure
        3. Changes blood lipids
        4. Improves circulation
III. Conclusion
    A. Benefits of running make it an excellent exercise.
    B. People who want to improve their health should consider running.

Outline Template

Title _____

   I.   Introduction
        A.   _____
        B.   _____
  II.   Body
        A.   _____
            1.   _____
            2.   _____
            3.   _____
            4.   _____
        B.   _____
            1.   _____
            2.   _____
            3.   _____
            4.   _____
        C.   _____
            1.   _____
            2.   _____
            3.   _____
            4.   _____
        D.   _____
            1.   _____
            2.   _____
            3.   _____
            4.   _____
 III.   Conclusion
        A.   _____
        B.   _____