

Thesis Statement Components

- All thesis statement should include three main components
 - **Argument**
 - Must be debatable
 - Must be able to be supported with FACTS/QUOTES
 - **Specific Argument Detail**
 - How? & Why?
 - **Argument Depth**
 - So what?

Outlining

- The purpose of outlining is to get all of your ideas organized before you start writing the actual paper.
 - This should help ensure that:
 - your main ideas are clear and connected
 - your arguments are supported with evidence
 - you are writing in logical order

General Outlining Format

- All outlines should have the thesis as the first component.
 - Without the main thesis present, the rest of the outline has little meaning.
- Introductions and conclusions are not a part of a formal MLA outline
 - You will only outline the BODY of the paper.
- A formal outline has complete sentences for the thesis statement and the topic sentences
 - The other components of the outline should be complete pieces of information, but do not necessarily have to be in sentence structure.

Outlining Structure Format

History Outline Example

- I. BTS (body thesis statement)
 - A. General evidence
 1. Specific evidence (cited)
 2. Specific evidence (cited)
 - a. Analysis
 - b. Analysis

Lit. Analysis Outline Example

- I. BTS
 - A. Quote (cited)
 1. Context
 2. Analysis

Introduction Components

- Hook

- *Integrated Quote*
- Anecdote
- Interesting Historical Content

DO NOT START YOUR PAPER WITH QUESTION

- Topical Introductory Content

- You should be introducing the reader to the topic and the topic's context in history.

- Well-developed Thesis Statement

Weak Introduction

Bob Dylan

Have you ever wondered what the world of American popular music would look like without Bob Dylan? Bob Dylan has made a huge impact on the face of Rock and Roll music in the United States. His music has touched many people in many ways. Throughout his career, Dylan has been successful both commercially and socially. **Bob Dylan has given popular music the soul it was desperately missing and his words gave a voice to the oppressed and the poor.**

OK Introduction

Bob Dylan: The Times They Are a Changing

“Elvis may have freed our bodies, but Dylan freed our souls.” Bob Dylan has had a profound impact on American popular music over the last five decades. His music, which deals with the plight of the common American has reached millions on a personal level and has driven many to action. From the beginning of his career, Dylan has striven to make meaningful music. *As a youth in the 1960s, Bob Dylan gave pop music the soul it was desperately missing and his words gave a voice to the oppressed and the poor, creating an anthem that would live forever in a never-ending revolution against all types of injustice.*

Strong Introduction

Bob Dylan: Forever Young

The day was February 20, 1991 and Bob Dylan found himself a fifty-year-old man at just another overly hyped and commercialized award show. Although it must have seemed like an eternity since January of 1961 when he left Robert Zimmerman behind in a small Minnesota town called Hibbing to become a folk singer named Bob Dylan in Greenwich Village in New York City, not much had changed (Scaduto 3). The Vietnam War and the Cold War had both ended only to give way to the Gulf War in the oil rich Middle East and Fear of communism was replaced by the fear of terrorism. The show was rather apolitical and most of his fans had traded in their rebellious edge for a day job and a family, falling comfortably into the groove of insignificance and a conformity that they had always dreaded as youths. Bob Dylan was about to receive a Grammy for Lifetime Achievement, but he would make it known that just because he was receiving this award his life was not over. [As a youth in the 1960s, Bob Dylan gave pop music the soul it was desperately missing and his words gave a voice to the oppressed and the poor, creating an anthem that would live forever in a never-ending revolution against all types of injustice.](#)

Thesis/BT Relation

- There must be a clear connection between each Body Thesis and your Main Thesis.
- Your Body Theses are the main points you are using to **PROVE YOUR MAIN THESIS.**
- Any weakness in your BODY THESESES is a weakness in your entire paper

BTs in correlation to MT

MT~ As a youth in the 1960s, Bob Dylan infused pop music with the soul it was desperately missing and his words gave a voice to the oppressed and the poor, creating an anthem that would live forever in a never-ending revolution against all types of injustice.

BT1~ Dylan's importance is timeless because the issues on civil liberties he writes about are always being reborn in different ways.

BT2~ On top of being a die-hard advocate for civil rights, Dylan extended his lyrical attack on corrupt politicians and war profiteers.

BT3~ Bob Dylan could not single handedly change human nature and all the evil and hatred in this world, but that never stopped him from continuing to challenge his listeners to fight the hysteria, racism, and war that they had to live with.

Paragraph Breakdown & Topic Sentences

- Each BT in your paper **WILL NOT BE A SINGLE PARAGRAPH!!!!!!**
- Instead each BT will lead into a multi-paragraph section of your paper.
- Each paragraph that does not have a BT must have a clearly developed Topic Sentence.

TSs in relation to BTs

BT~ On top of being a die-hard advocate for civil rights, Dylan extended his lyrical attack on corrupt politicians and war profiteers.

TS~ Also on “Free Wheelin Bob Dylan”, Dylan wrote “Oxford Town” about a young man named James Meredith who was the first African American to enroll at the University of Mississippi.

TS~ His next album, “The Times They are a Changin’”, was released on February 10, 1964 and was just as politically motivated as “Free Wheelin Bob Dylan”.

Support (Facts, Evidence, Proof)

- **MOST IMPORTANT *SHOW DON'T TELL***
 - Don't just tell the reader the general factual info
 - The country fell in love with the film.
 - The president was admired for his decision.
 - Show the reader with **SPECIFIC** facts
 - The film was the highest grossing film of the year, making 43 million dollars, and it also won four academy awards.
 - The president's approval rating rose by 15% after his decision. His advisor, John Smith, noted, "It seemed as though the nation felt he truly saved the country from ruin."

Support (cont.)

- **PRIMARY SOURCES MAKE GREAT SPECIFIC SUPPORT**
 - Quotes (verbal, newspaper, legal, etc.)
 - Choose wisely as to not impede readability
 - Be sure to integrate the quotes appropriately
 - Statistics
 - Try to put into your own words whenever possible
 - Be sure to avoid too many lists of stats

Commentary/Analysis

- Commentary/Analysis is key to a research paper. It has several functions.
 - Explains concrete specific details when they are unclear.
 - DON'T RESTATE THE OBVIOUS.
 - Draws analytical conclusions about concrete specific details.
 - BE CAREFUL NOT TO MAKE TOO BIG OF LEAPS.
 - Draws connections from concrete specific details to both BTs & MTs.
 - CONNECTIONS SHOULD BE LOGICAL & WELL-DEVELOPED.
 - AVOID REPETITIVE CONNECTIVE COMMENTARY.

Conclusion Development

- A conclusion should...
 - stress the importance of the thesis statement
 - give the essay a sense of completeness
 - leave a final impression on the reader.

Conclusion Suggestions

- **Answer the question "So What?"**
 - Show your readers why this paper was important. Show them that your paper was meaningful and useful.
- **Synthesize, don't summarize**
 - Don't simply repeat things that were in your paper. They have read it. Show them how the points you made and the support and examples you used were not random, but fit together.
- **Redirect your readers**
 - Give your reader something to think about, perhaps a way to use your paper in the "real" world. If your introduction went from general to specific, make your conclusion go from specific to general. Think globally.
- **Create a new meaning**
 - You don't have to give new information to create a new meaning. By demonstrating how your ideas work together, you can create a new picture. Often the sum of the paper is worth more than its parts.

In-Text Citations

- Follow MLA format in ALL CASES!!!!
 - Please ensure that you have the most updated criterion as it changes often ;)

Parenthetical Format

- (Author Last Name Pg.#).
 - EXAMPLE (Smith 145).
 - If there is no author, USE FIRST KEY WORD(s) OF TITLE.
 - EXAMPLE (“American” 345).
 - If from internet site without pg. #s, DO NOT PUT ANYTHING.
 - EXAMPLE (Smith). OR (American).
- Cite all PARAPHRASES & QUOTES

Quoting & Paraphrasing Reminders

- ~ Unless directly quoted, all information must be put into your own words.
 - If you directly quote a source, you must put the quote in “ “.
 - You also must put the citation DIRECTLY after the quote.
 - You should have no more than **2** secondary quotes.
 - You may have unlimited primary quotes.
 - ~Be sure not to add too many because it may hinder the readability of the paper.
- ~ When putting information into your own words, remember the paraphrasing rule. **No more than 4 words in the same order as the source.**
- ~ Just changing the order of words does not mean paraphrasing. You must change that actual wording of the information.

PARAPHRASING EXAMPLE

- **Source-** On June 4, 1968, Robert F. Kennedy was tragically shot down in a hotel kitchen after delivering a campaign speech.
- **Proper Paraphrase-** While leaving a campaign rally through a hotel kitchen, Robert F. Kennedy was mortally wounded by an assassin on June 4, 1968.
- **IMPROPER Paraphrase-** Robert F. Kennedy was shot down in a hotel kitchen after delivering a campaign speech on June 4, 1968.

Works Cited Page

- PAGE & each ENTRY should follow MLA format. (You have the guideline sheet)
 - Page Format Reminders
 - Alphabetical order
 - Double spaced (NO EXTRA SPACES BETWEEN ENTRIES)
 - Entry Format Reminders
 - Hanging Indent (Any line after first is indented)
 - Pay close attention to entry punctuation.
 - Do not leave out any required information.
- Should only contain WORKS that are CITED in the paper.