

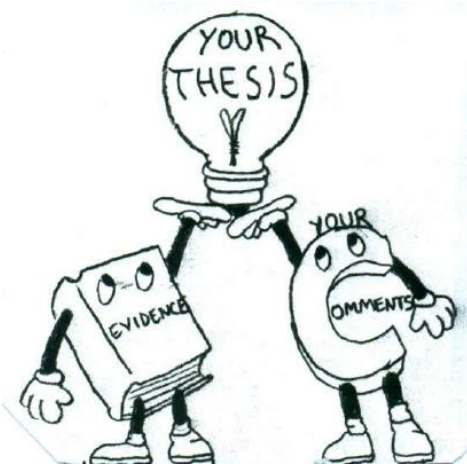
Outlining Your Research Paper

In order to fill in this outline, you will need to get out your Annotated Bibliography. If you don't have this, you will have to get out your printed articles to do this outline. If you don't have your printed articles, either, you haven't been following instructions.

Step 1: Now that you have summarized and evaluated 6 articles, you should have a pretty good perspective on what is being said about your topic. You have seen what the issues are and what people are arguing about, so now you should be able to develop your own point of view, which can be put in the form of a **thesis statement** that is 1-2 sentences in which you take a position on the topic. For example, "Violence in video games does not substantially affect the behavior of people who play them."

A thesis statement should do the following:

- Declare what you believe/what you intend to prove
- Make an arguable point with which others could disagree
- Goal: the thesis statement will be supported by each paragraph of your upcoming research paper.



Write a rough thesis statement here about your topic. If you can't think of one yet, skip to the outline on the next page and come back to the thesis later:

(the researched evidence and your comments/analysis will hold it up)

Step 2: After writing your rough thesis statement above, ask yourself...

Is your rough thesis appropriate for the sources you've summarized (what are your sources collectively proving)?

Is your rough thesis about the media?

Does your rough thesis have your opinion in it?

Example:

Rough: *The media's coverage of World War II was censored, leaving out the details of the war and mostly focusing on what citizens could do to support the troops. (This is actually a fact, not an opinion.)*

Revised: *In wartime, the people's right to know isn't as important as national security and the safety of the troops. For that reason, it was a good idea that the media's coverage of World War II was censored, leaving out the details of the war and mostly focusing on what citizens could do to support the troops.*

(Now it has my opinion.)

Step 3: Write a revised thesis on the other side of this sheet, and then fill out the rest of the outline...

OUTLINE FOR RESEARCH PAPER

(Organizing your sources)

Introduction

Revised thesis statement: If you can't think of one yet, skip down to the next item and come back to the thesis later when you have a better idea of what your sources are collectively proving.

Example: The Superman myth and the Christ story are remarkably similar in more ways than one. Remember, your thesis statement and paper must be about the media!!!

I. 1st Source to Support Your Thesis

You will put your first piece of information from an article to support your thesis. You will “sandwich” the information between a top layer of where it comes from and a bottom layer of opinion. Set up the sandwich like this:

- The top bread – tell what author (or article title if no author) the information comes from (get this from your Annotated Bibliographies).

Example: Stephen Hanson

A. Specific idea from the author/article above

- The meat – summarize the information from the article (get this from your Annotated Bibliographies).

Notice that this is NOT a full-sentence outline. You are NOT writing the whole essay yet...

Example: Superman's dad sends son to Earth

B. Your opinion about the idea above

- The bottom bread – give your opinion about the information (“meat”) you just put above (get this from your evaluations on your Annotated Bibliographies). Your opinion should have something to do with your thesis.

Example: Relationship between Superman and father seems God-like

II. 2nd Source to Support Your Thesis (can be same as 1st source or different)

- The top bread – tell what author (or article title if no author) the information comes from (get this from your Annotated Bibliographies).

Example: “The Good, the Bad, and the Oedipal”

A. Specific idea from the author/article above

- The meat – summarize the information from the article (get this from your Annotated Bibliographies).

Example: Superman's dad says Earthlings only lack the light

...You are simply grouping the sources by the ideas you want to use. Sum up the idea in a phrase. You will expand this idea & your opinion in the essay.

B. Your opinion about the idea above

- The bottom bread – give your opinion about the information (“meat”) you just put above (get this from your evaluations on your Annotated Bibliographies). Your opinion should have something to do with your thesis.

Example: Seems like Dad sent Superman to Earth to save them from darkness

III. 3rd Source to Support Your Thesis (can be same source or different)

- The top bread – tell what author (or article title if no author) the information comes from (get this from your Annotated Bibliographies).

Example: Lester Roebuck

A. Specific idea from the author/article above

- The meat – summarize the information from the article (get this from your Annotated Bibliographies).

Example: Superman’s dad knew his planet would be destroyed

B. Your opinion about the idea above

- The bottom bread – give your opinion about the information (“meat”) you just put above (get this from your evaluations on your Annotated Bibliographies). Your opinion should have something to do with your thesis.

Example: Seems like Superman’s dad is all-knowing, like God

IV. 4th Source to Support Your Thesis (can be same source or different)

- The top bread – tell what author (or article title if no author) the information comes from (get this from your Annotated Bibliographies).

Example: Rosa DelVecchio

A. Specific idea from the author/article above

- The meat – summarize the information from the article (get this from your Annotated Bibliographies).

Example: Superman turns back the world

B. Your opinion about the idea above

- The bottom bread – give your opinion about the information (“meat”) you just put above (get this from your evaluations on your Annotated Bibliographies). Your opinion should have something to do with your thesis.

Example: Seems like Superman can control time, like God

- V. 5th Source to Support Your Thesis (can be same source or different)**
- The top bread – tell what author (or article title if no author) the information comes from (get this from your Annotated Bibliographies).

Example: James Talmage

A. Specific idea from the author/article above

- The meat – summarize the information from the article (get this from your Annotated Bibliographies).

Example: Christ does not abuse his power

B. Your opinion about the idea above

- The bottom bread – give your opinion about the information (“meat”) you just put above (get this from your evaluations on your Annotated Bibliographies). Your opinion should have something to do with your thesis.

Example: Seems like Superman only used powers to help others, like Christ did

- VI. 6th Source to Support Your Thesis (can be same source or different)**
- The top bread – tell what author (or article title if no author) the information comes from (get this from your Annotated Bibliographies).

Example: “Why Is Superman Still a Virgin?”

A. Specific idea from the author/article above

- The meat – summarize the information from the article (get this from your Annotated Bibliographies).

Example: Superman is a virgin

B. Your opinion about the idea above

- The bottom bread – give your opinion about the information (“meat”) you just put above (get this from your evaluations on your Annotated Bibliographies). Your opinion should have something to do with your thesis.

Example: Superman and Christ do not have human vices like the Greek gods

- VII. 7th Source to Support Your Thesis (can be same source or different)**
- The top bread – tell what author (or article title if no author) the information comes from (get this from your Annotated Bibliographies).

Example: Richard Donner

A. Specific idea from the author/article above

- The meat – summarize the information from the article (get this from your Annotated Bibliographies).

Example: Superman passes three attempts on his life

B. Your opinion about the idea above

- The bottom bread – give your opinion about the information (“meat”) you just put above (get this from your evaluations on your Annotated Bibliographies). Your opinion should have something to do with your thesis.

Example: Seems just like Satan’s three temptations toward Christ

VIII. 8th Source to Support Your Thesis (can be same source or different)

- The top bread – tell what author (or article title if no author) the information comes from (get this from your Annotated Bibliographies).

Example: Richard Donner

A. Specific idea from the author/article above

- The meat – summarize the information from the article (get this from your Annotated Bibliographies).

Example: Superman saves street crowd from a falling helicopter

B. Your opinion about the idea above

- The bottom bread – give your opinion about the information (“meat”) you just put above (get this from your evaluations on your Annotated Bibliographies). Your opinion should have something to do with your thesis.

Example: Seems like crowd just as helpless without Superman as Man without Christ

Conclusion

Re-word your thesis statement:

Example: Superman may have connections to other hero myths, but there are numerous examples of his similarity to the story of Christ.

When you start writing your essay, you might want to put things in a different order than what you used in this outline. You might want to decide which **structure** would be the most persuasive for you:

- Nestorian Order (2nd best argument 1st, then minor arguments, best argument last)
- Strawman (show the opposition, then knock it down)
- Concession (acknowledge the opposition & its validity, then show stronger argument in favor of your thesis)

The examples about Superman in this packet are in Nestorian Order.

You may certainly end up with more evidence in the research paper than in this rough outline. You may even end up changing the thesis. That’s okay. The outline is just to help you organize the paper.