**Essay Writing: Preparing an Outline**

Use an outline to plan your essay. Creating an outline allows you to think before you do your research and start to write. The essay outline is laid out in a visual way so that you can see how it is organized. You do not have to write full sentences as an outline is only a map of what you plan to do.

**Introduction of Your Topic**

Get your audience’s attention. What is important or intriguing about this topic? What background is relevant for your readers?

**Thesis Statement**

What are you planning to prove or demonstrate in this essay?

Generate arguments by turning your thesis into a question.

Write three topic sentences of your supporting arguments/main ideas (how you are going to prove your thesis).

**Body Paragraphs**

**Topic sentence paragraph one**

Content for body paragraph one - Supporting points, Quotations, Evidence.

Always tie quotations/evidence in to your thesis. Explain, explain, explain and cite, cite, cite.

**Topic sentence paragraph two**

Content for body paragraph two - Supporting points, Quotations, Evidence.

**Topic sentence paragraph three**

Content for body paragraph three - Supporting points, Quotations, Evidence.

**Conclusion**

Restate thesis. Summarize most important points. Show that you proved your thesis (your learning).

Do not add new content.

**Finally**

With an outline, you will be able to see if any of your sections are repetitive or redundant. A test of a good outline is if you can look at the outline and orally summarize your essay to someone who is unfamiliar with the topic.

**More Writing Resources**

**KPU’s Peer Tutors and Learning Strategists** through The Learning Centres: [tlc.kpu.ca](https://tlc.kpu.ca)

**KPU’s Online Writing Tutoring** (The Learning Centres). Access face-to-face online tutoring or submit a paper online for tutoring help: [kpu.upswing.io](https://kpu.upswing.io)

**Write Away** This eWriting lab is open 24/7 to students throughout BC [http://writeaway.ca/](http://writeaway.ca/)

**Purdue University’s OWL (Online Writing Lab)**

Citation styles (MLA, APA, Chicago), grammatical help, thesis statement tips, explanation of essay types such as expository, descriptive, narrative, argumentative, persuasive, etc. [https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/)

**KPU librarians** can give you further help with citation styles, research techniques, and finding resources. [http://www.kpu.ca/library](http://www.kpu.ca/library)