ESSAY OUTLINE FORM

Main (Controlling) Idea of the essay: ____________________________________________

Three main points of argument (1) __________________________________________
(2) __________________________________________
(3) __________________________________________

INTRODUCTION: [Introduction should start on a general level with lead-in statements and gradually focus in on the specific topic of the essay. In the introduction, the reader should find the main idea of the essay expressed in the thesis sentence. Also in the introduction, the reader should be able to tell what specific points about the main idea will be discussed and in what order they will be developed. The lead in statements could (1) make a striking assertion, (2) use a split anecdote (a story that is begun in the introduction and is finished in the conclusion), (3) use an interesting detail, statistic, or quotation, or (4) ask a provocative question. The introduction should make the reader want to continue reading.]

Lead-in statements: __________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

Thesis (which includes points of argument): ____________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

BODY: [Each topic sentence should be a major point of argument which supports the thesis statement. Primary support sentences are general statements which support the topic sentence. The secondary support sentences (or concrete illustrations), which support the primary support sentences, provide specific details, quotes, statistics, or real-life examples.]

Body Paragraph 1 (develops first point of argument):
Topic sentence: ______________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
Primary Support: ____________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
Secondary Support: __________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
Primary Support: ____________________________________________________________
Secondary Support: __________________________________________________________
Primary Support: ____________________________________________________________
Secondary Support: __________________________________________________________

Body Paragraph 2 (develops second point of argument):
Topic sentence: ______________________________________________________________
Primary Support: ____________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
Secondary Support: 

Primary Support: 

Secondary Support: 

Primary Support: 

Secondary Support: 

**Body Paragraph 3** (develops third point of argument):

Topic sentence: 

Primary Support: 

Secondary Support: 

Primary Support: 

Secondary Support: 

Primary Support: 

Secondary Support: 

**CONCLUSION**: [The concluding paragraph should include a general summary statement which recaps the thesis, a sentence which restates the major points of argument, and a wrap-up statement. The conclusion could also contain the end of a split anecdote that would finish the story begun in the introduction. The wrap-up statement could contain insights of the essay writer, encourage the reader to take action, emphasize the importance of one of the points of argument, or create a solid sense of finality.]

General summary statement that recaps thesis: 

Recap major points of argument: 

Wrap-up statement (consequences and insights): 