**Research Paper Outline Template**

1. [Introduction](http://jjc.jjay.cuny.edu/erc/writing/introduction/exmenu_introduction.php)
   1. Attention Grabber: directly relate the hook to your topic, make the hook catch the reader’s attention (Can be a surprising statistic, a rhetorical question, an anecdote or a summary of a fact)
   2. Background Information: give a brief history of your topic and explain its importance
   3. Lead into Thesis: a transition sentence(s) that links the background information to your thesis
   4. [Thesis](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/545/1/): breaks down an issue or an idea into its component parts, evaluates the issue or idea, and presents this breakdown and evaluation to the audience. (May be more than 1 sentence.)
2. Body
   1. [Topic Sentence 1](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fjjc.jjay.cuny.edu%2Ferc%2Fwriting%2Fstructure%2Fexmenu_structure.php&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNEtBWyzNtP8VWY9KyGY-quZtesZDA) ([Point](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1yU7Dc-25UEeXV6moNMaSZDGQqVrpK9UiMd6lV6xaQuw/edit))
      1. [Signal Phrase](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bw7KL9vyglwCSDF3WjVHZzZEQ2M/view?usp=sharing) + [Evidence 1: from note cards](http://jjc.jjay.cuny.edu/erc/writing/development/exmenu_development.php) + In-text citation
      2. [Explanation](http://drive.google.com/open?id=1toBCA1dp14e1sdlNWnuTR2QJzCr11rphYt7Wzh14J_M): relates evidence to topic sentence/thesis
      3. [Signal Phrase](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bw7KL9vyglwCSDF3WjVHZzZEQ2M/view?usp=sharing) + [Evidence 2: from note cards](http://jjc.jjay.cuny.edu/erc/writing/development/exmenu_development.php) + In-text citation
      4. [Explanation](http://drive.google.com/open?id=1toBCA1dp14e1sdlNWnuTR2QJzCr11rphYt7Wzh14J_M): relates evidence to topic sentence/thesis
      5. [Closing Sentence](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1b14a4RNaz07tRBgtAWlAgCYUoFUAfoAWyGAVmbLM9IE/edit#slide=id.p22) + [Transition Sentence: connect previous topic to next topic](https://docs.google.com/document/d/16KsB9bS_mykiMbXc_QRwWRDVNnNgMZWPP3bTqGYf6tU/edit)
   2. [Topic Sentence 2](http://jjc.jjay.cuny.edu/erc/writing/structure/exmenu_structure.php) ([Point](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1yU7Dc-25UEeXV6moNMaSZDGQqVrpK9UiMd6lV6xaQuw/edit))
      1. [Signal Phrase](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bw7KL9vyglwCSDF3WjVHZzZEQ2M/view?usp=sharing) + [Evidence 1: from note cards](http://jjc.jjay.cuny.edu/erc/writing/development/exmenu_development.php) + In-text citation
      2. [Explanation](http://drive.google.com/open?id=1toBCA1dp14e1sdlNWnuTR2QJzCr11rphYt7Wzh14J_M): relates evidence to topic sentence/thesis
      3. [Signal Phrase](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bw7KL9vyglwCSDF3WjVHZzZEQ2M/view?usp=sharing) + [Evidence 2: from note cards](http://jjc.jjay.cuny.edu/erc/writing/development/exmenu_development.php) + In-text citation
      4. [Explanation](http://drive.google.com/open?id=1toBCA1dp14e1sdlNWnuTR2QJzCr11rphYt7Wzh14J_M): relates evidence to topic sentence/thesis
      5. [Closing Sentence](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1b14a4RNaz07tRBgtAWlAgCYUoFUAfoAWyGAVmbLM9IE/edit#slide=id.p22) + [Transition Sentence: connect previous topic to next topic](https://docs.google.com/document/d/16KsB9bS_mykiMbXc_QRwWRDVNnNgMZWPP3bTqGYf6tU/edit)
   3. [Topic Sentence 3](http://jjc.jjay.cuny.edu/erc/writing/structure/exmenu_structure.php) ([Point](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1yU7Dc-25UEeXV6moNMaSZDGQqVrpK9UiMd6lV6xaQuw/edit))
      1. [Signal Phrase](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bw7KL9vyglwCSDF3WjVHZzZEQ2M/view?usp=sharing) + [Evidence 1: from note cards](http://jjc.jjay.cuny.edu/erc/writing/development/exmenu_development.php) + In-text citation
      2. [Explanation](http://drive.google.com/open?id=1toBCA1dp14e1sdlNWnuTR2QJzCr11rphYt7Wzh14J_M): relates evidence to topic sentence/thesis
      3. [Signal Phrase](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bw7KL9vyglwCSDF3WjVHZzZEQ2M/view?usp=sharing) + [Evidence 2: from note cards](http://jjc.jjay.cuny.edu/erc/writing/development/exmenu_development.php) + In-text citation
      4. [Explanation](http://drive.google.com/open?id=1toBCA1dp14e1sdlNWnuTR2QJzCr11rphYt7Wzh14J_M): relates evidence to topic sentence/thesis
      5. [Closing Sentence](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1b14a4RNaz07tRBgtAWlAgCYUoFUAfoAWyGAVmbLM9IE/edit#slide=id.p22) + [Transition Sentence: connect previous topic to next topic](https://docs.google.com/document/d/16KsB9bS_mykiMbXc_QRwWRDVNnNgMZWPP3bTqGYf6tU/edit)
3. [Conclusion](http://jjc.jjay.cuny.edu/erc/writing/concluding/exmenu_concluding.php)
   1. Summarize/Synthesize: a summary sentence(s) that declares a wrap-up of concepts to begin this paragraph.
   2. Restate Thesis: restate the thesis
   3. Final Suggestion/Evaluation
4. Reference page in alphabetical order by last name. See [APA](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/)/[MLA](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fowl.english.purdue.edu%2Fowl%2Fsection%2F2%2F11%2F&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNFZKrEG0BEDGBj4iPeOZ5td4VwWAQ) format online and note [examples](https://docs.google.com/open?id=0Bw7KL9vyglwCODFjNWQ5YTktYTJhZi00YjA3LTk5MjItNjc1NmYxMDEwN2U1) from previous class [materials](https://www.refme.com/) ([videos](https://youtu.be/LZeORa-Z4Sc)) and [samples](https://docs.google.com/file/d/0Bw7KL9vyglwCMXdiUkhNUDlQRVE/edit). Remember to [cite](https://youtu.be/XQ8fy7SPotM) all of your references in the body of your text following a summary, paraphrase, borrowed concept (idea) or quote. Use [transition words and phrases](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bw7KL9vyglwCMDY2ZTg3MWMtZTNmMC00MjE2LTkyMmUtZWY0ZjQ3NGZiOTBh/view?usp=sharing) where necessary. Finally, avoid cliches in academic writing - [Resource 1](http://writing2.richmond.edu/writing/wweb/cliche.html), [Resource 2](http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/cliches/), [Resource 3](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bw7KL9vyglwCQVdnMENHTzRvUFU/view?usp=sharing) and [Resource 4](http://unilearning.uow.edu.au/academic/2e.html).