

Literature  
Sample Outline follows:

John Smith  
Mrs. Shienvold  
English II  
1 June 2005

Nathaniel Hawthorne

Thesis: Nathaniel Hawthorne's writings exhibit a preoccupation with the darkness of the human condition.

I. Introduction

- A. Attention-getting device (examples, facts, or statistics)
- B. Central idea or thesis statement
- C. Summary of main points and transition into body of paper
  - 1. First main point
  - 2. Second main point
  - 3. Third main point

II. First main point

- A. Support
- B. Support
- C. Support

III. Second main point

- A. Support
- B. Support
- C. Support

IV. Third main point

- A. Support
- B. Support
- C. Support and transition into conclusion

V. Conclusion

- A. Restatement of main points as evidence of thesis
- B. Restatement of thesis (better to use different words)
- C. Good clincher

Please Note: Your teacher may require some variation of this outline . . .

Ideas:

1. Some may want more transitions between points;
2. Some may wish for summary of main points to come *before* thesis sentence;

3. Some topics may lend themselves to order of importance -- least to most important or most to least important;
4. Some teachers may require noun topics only;
5. Some may require a certain number of quotes from sources;
6. No complete sentences and no more than 4 or 5 words per category;
7. Your teacher should not be able to link categories together to read your research paper!