**Outline Format:**

**Historical Paper:**

I. BTS

* 1. General Evidence
     1. Specific Evidence/Analysis
     2. Analysis
  2. General Evidence
     1. Specific Evidence/Analysis
     2. Analysis

* 1. General Evidence
     1. Specific Evidence/Analysis
        1. Analysis

**Literary Analysis Paper:**

I. BTS

A. Quote (cited)

1. Analysis

2. Analysis

**Thesis:**

Thesis statement: the main argument of your essay, where you make a statement that will be supported by the body of your essay. *All essays will have a thesis statement*

* Thesis should be the focus of the paper
* Must address the prompt and show an understanding of the prompt
* Thesis statements must make a claim or argument, they are not statements of fact
* Not merely a statement of opinions
* Go in the introductory paragraph.
* Make an argument.
* Think of it as a road map to argument you will develop in the paper
* Answers the "what" question (what is the argument?) and it gives the reader a clue as to the "why" question (why is this argument the most persuasive?).
* Make sure you understand what the question is, or what the topic is.
* Answer the question! Address all the parts of the question or topic.
* Check that your thesis is not too general or too broad. Include just enough information to guide the shaping of your essay without constricting it too much.
* Is Your Thesis Well Written?

1. Do I answer the question?
2. Have I taken a position that others might challenge or oppose?
3. Is my thesis statement specific enough?
4. Does my thesis pass the "So what?" test?
5. Does my essay support my thesis specifically and without wandering?
6. Does my thesis pass the "how and why?" test?

* Thesis Summary:
  + It makes a clear and specific statement.
  + It indicates the direction of your thoughts.
  + It sets a stage.
  + It provides structure.
  + It is supported by the body paragraphs.

**BTS:**

* Body Thesis Statement: the first sentence of your body paragraph(s). Makes a statement in support of your thesis and will be the point you are trying to prove with the evidence found in those paragraph(s). *All essays will have 3 body thesis statements.*
* Should be the thesis for that section of paragraphs
* Each BTS could contain one, two, three paragraphs
* BTS and paragraphs must connect, address, support the thesis
* Remember: A BTS IS NOT JUST ONE PARAGRAPH
* A BTS is the main topic of a collection of paragraphs
* Start the paragraph with a BTS (or, if second/third, etc. paragraph, start with a transition)
* Never start or end a paragraph with a piece of cited information. TRANSITIONS

**Evidence:**

* Evidence: a concrete, indisputable fact that supports your body thesis statement and helps prove your thesis statement. This evidence can be a quote, historical fact or other provable fact, should be cited.
* Every piece of evidence must connect to thesis (or BTS)
* Evidence:
  + English: quotes, can paraphrase plot
  + History: facts, data, statistics, quotes from people about topic
  + Can paraphrase information as long as you cite
* MOST IMPORTANT ***SHOW*** DON’T ***TELL***
* Don’t just tell the reader the general factual info
  + The country fell in love with the film.
  + The president was admired for his decision.
* Show the reader with SPECIFIC facts
  + The film was the highest grossing film of the year, making 43 million dollars, and it also won four academy awards.
  + The president’s approval rating rose by 15% after his decision. His advisor, John Smith, noted, “It seemed as though the nation felt he truly saved the country from ruin.”
* PRIMARY SOURCES MAKE GREAT SPECIFIC SUPPORT
  + Quotes (verbal, newspaper, legal, etc.)
  + Choose wisely as to not impede readability
  + Be sure to integrate the quotes appropriately
  + Statistics
  + Try to put into your own words whenever possible
  + Be sure to avoid too many lists of stats

**Analysis**:

* Analysis: your explanation of how your evidence supports your body paragraph, which proves your thesis statement.
* Not new evidence/information
* Analysis should reinforce your evidence, expand, address the so what
* Why is this important? Connection to topic?
* Commentary/Analysis is key to a research paper. It has several functions.
* Explains concrete specific details when they are unclear.
  + DON’T RESTATE THE OBVIOUS.
  + Draws analytical conclusions about concrete specific details.
  + BE CAREFUL NOT TO MAKE TOO BIG OF LEAPS.
  + Draws connections from concrete specific details to both BTs & thesis.
  + CONNECTIONS SHOULD BE LOGICAL & WELL-DEVELOPED.
  + AVOID REPETITIVE CONNECTIVE COMMENTARY.
* Bad:
  + This shows that, this quote shows that, I believe this
  + Remove this wording, it weakens essay
  + Restates evidence, or is new evidence
  + Examples:
  + “This shows that Huck is a true friend to Jim”
  + “This quote shows that Jim is a slave”
  + “This quote shows that Huck was sad when Buck died”
* Good:
  + Answers the so what
  + Connects evidence to the thesis
  + Deeper level of thinking
  + NOT FACTS OR EVIDENCE
  + Examples:
  + “Twain uses the duke and dauphin to emphasis the moral crisis Huck is facing”

**Conclusion:**

* Answer the question "So What?"
  + Show your readers why this paper was important. Show them that your paper was meaningful and useful.
* Synthesize, don't summarize
  + Don't simply repeat things that were in your paper. They have read it. Show them how the points you made and the support and examples you used were not random, but fit together.
* Redirect your readers
  + Give your reader something to think about, perhaps a way to use your paper in the "real" world. If your introduction went from general to specific, make your conclusion go from specific to general. Think globally.
* Create a new meaning
  + You don't have to give new information to create a new meaning. By demonstrating how your ideas work together, you can create a new picture. Often the sum of the paper is worth more than its parts.

**In-Text Citations:**

* Punctuation goes after the citation
  + Ex: “low down Abolitionist” (Twain 89).
* Do not need to put author if using one source
  + (Twain 90) vs. (90)

**Quotes:**

* For literary analysis essays:
  + Majority of evidence should be a quote from novel
* For historical paper
  + Paraphrasing or quoting…data/stats should be paraphrased
  + ALWAYS CITE QUOTES OR PARAPHRASING
* Always integrate a quote!
* Write quote like this:
  + Daisy represents the hollowness of wealth when she states, “all right, what will we plan” (8).
* Avoid:
  + Naked quotes
  + “her voice was full of money”
  + Quote added to the end of a sentence with a comma
  + I like cats, “her voice was full of money”
  + On page 43 it says …
  + In chapter five the author says…
  + Starting/ending a paragraph with a quote

**Introduction:**

* Need hook
* Always mention the author and the title of the work in the intro
* Always *italicize* the title
* Never quotation marks or underline
* Thesis as the last sentence
* Try to avoid a two sentence thesis

**Body Paragraphs:**

* Transition, Body Thesis Statement (the first reason …):
* Evidence (fact, statistic, or expert opinion—ideally from a relevant group—with the source):
* Explanation (completely tie the evidence to your main point):
* Evidence (fact, statistic, or expert opinion—ideally from a relevant group—with the source):
* Explanation (completely tie the evidence to your main point):
* Concluding Sentence (recast the body thesis statement without changing meaning)

**Works Cited Page:**

* Separate page at the end of paper.
* Alphabetical order
* Label the page Works Cited (do not italicize the words Works Cited or put them in quotation marks) and center the words Works Cited at the top of the page.
* Double space all citations, but do not skip spaces between entries.
* Indent the second lines of citations by 0.5 inches to create a hanging indent.

Ex: Gleick, James. *Chaos: Making a New Science*. New York: Penguin, 1987. Print.

**Paraphrasing:**

* Unless directly quoted, all information must be put into your own words.
* Put the citation after the quote or paraphrasing.
* When putting information into your own words, remember the paraphrasing rule. **No more than 4 words in the same order as the source.**
* Just changing the order of words does not mean paraphrasing. You must change that actual wording of the information.
* Example:
  + **Source-** On June 4, 1968, Robert F. Kennedy was tragically shot down in a hotel kitchen after delivering a campaign speech.
  + **Proper Paraphrase-** While leaving a campaign rally through a hotel kitchen, Robert F. Kennedy was mortally wounded by an assassin on June 4, 1968.
  + **IMPROPER Paraphrase-** Robert F. Kennedy was shot down in a hotel kitchen after delivering a campaign speech on June 4, 1968.