

Example of MLA Outline Format—Research Paper

***Remember the "two-point rule":** You need at least two points under every heading. In other words, every letter A needs at least a letter B; every number 1 needs at least a number 2. Also, this template is a guide, and you may add more/less detail per paragraph.

- I. Introductory Paragraph
 - A. Attention getting ideas/general information about your topic: use an interesting quote/statistic/personal story/line from a speech/rhetorical question... that will catch the readers' attention and begin to engage them in your topic.
 - B. Specific information about your topic, who or what are you going to talk about?
 - C. Thesis Statement: Your opinion on something that relates to your topic.
- II. Main topic or idea # 1
 - A. Evidence to support the topic
 1. A detail to explain the evidence
 - a. Quotation
 - b. Link quotation to the main idea
 - i. Restate information you learned
 - ii. Evaluation/your opinion
 2. More detail
 - a. Quotation
 - b. Link quotation to main idea
 - i. Restate information you learned
 - ii. Evaluation/your opinion
 - B. Another piece of evidence
 1. A detail to explain the evidence
 - a. Quotation
 - b. Link quotation to the main idea
 2. More detail
- III. Main topic or idea # 2
 - A. Evidence to support the topic.
 1. A detail to explain the evidence
 - a. Quotation
 - b. Link quotation to the main idea
 2. More detail
 - a. Quotation
 - b. Link quotation to main idea

AN EXAMPLE OF OUTLINE FORMAT

Radio

I. Introduction

II. How radios work

- A. Radio waves
- B. AM and FM waves are different
 - 1. AM waves
 - 2. FM waves

III. Radio Industry

- A. Two ways of assigning call letters
 - 1. Old stations
 - 2. New stations
- B. Radio station licensing
- C. Careers in broadcasting
 - 1. Organizational structure of stations
 - 2. On-air personalities
 - a. training
 - b. responsibilities

IV. Uses

- A. Two-way radio
 - 1. Military
 - 2. Police
 - 3. Play
- B. Amateur
 - 1. Private use
 - 2. Business
- C. Broadcasting
 - 1. Entertainment
 - 2. News
 - 3. Advertisement
 - 4. Education
 - 5. Talk shows
- D. Famous talk shows
 - 1. Old
 - a. Abbott and Costello
 - b. Dragnet
 - 2. New
 - a. Rush Limbaugh
 - b. Donut Holes

V. Conclusion