**OUTLINE TEMPLATE**

*This is a template designed to help you plan out writing assignments. It can be used for argumentative, causal, persuasive, or any other type of thesis-based assignment.*

1. **Introduction and Thesis Statement**
   1. General statement about topic or an interesting hook to gain the reader’s interest (see our handout about writing Introductions):

* 1. How will you gradually transition from your first sentence to your thesis?

Any background information:

* 1. Thesis:

**II. Section One: 1st Point that Supports your Thesis**

Topic Sentence:

1. 1st Piece of Supporting Evidence (could be a fact, example, statistic, quote, or paraphrase—make sure you put in a citation):
2. Explain the significance of the evidence or offer an interpretation of it
3. Relation to your thesis/argument:

Transition sentence into the next paragraph/section:

1. 2nd Piece of Supporting Evidence:
2. Explain the significance of the evidence or offer an interpretation of it
3. Relation to your thesis/argument:

Transition sentence into the next paragraph/section:

**III. Section Two: 2nd Point that Supports your Thesis**

Topic Sentence:

1. 1st Piece of Supporting Evidence (could be a fact, example, statistic, quote, or paraphrase—make sure you put in a citation):
2. Explain the significance of the evidence or offer an interpretation of it
3. Relation to your thesis/argument:

Transition sentence into the next paragraph/section:

1. 2nd Piece of Supporting Evidence:
2. Explain the significance of the evidence or offer an interpretation of it
3. Relation to your thesis/argument:

Transition sentence into the next paragraph/section:

**IV. Section Three: 3rd Point that Supports your Thesis**

Topic Sentence:

1. 1st Piece of Supporting Evidence (could be a fact, example, statistic, quote, or paraphrase—make sure you put in a citation):
2. Explain the significance of the evidence or offer an interpretation of it
3. Relation to your thesis/argument:

Transition sentence into the next paragraph/section:

1. 2nd Piece of Supporting Evidence:
2. Explain the significance of the evidence or offer an interpretation of it
3. Relation to your thesis/argument:

Transition sentence into the next paragraph/section:

***Continue this format for the rest of your supporting points. Please see the last page of this packet for a blank template you can use for additional supporting points.***

*Note: You can also include the opposite view to analyze and refute in one of your body paragraph sections*

1. **Conclusion**

A summarization of your thesis statement (don’t simply restate it):

Leave your reader understanding *why* your thesis statement and your topic matter:

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The College of Saint Rose Writing Center, 2011

This handout is located at [www.strose.edu/writingcenter](http://www.strose.edu/writingcenter)

**Extra Body Paragraph Outline: \_\_\_ Point that Supports your Thesis**

Topic Sentence:

1. 1st Piece of Supporting Evidence (could be a fact, example, statistic, quote, or paraphrase—make sure you put in a citation):
2. Explain the significance of the evidence or offer an interpretation of it
3. Relation to your thesis/argument:

Transition sentence into the next paragraph/section:

1. 2nd Piece of Supporting Evidence:
   1. Explain the significance of the evidence or offer an interpretation of it
   2. Relation to your thesis/argument:

Transition sentence into the next paragraph/section: