

EXAMPLE DECIMAL SENTENCE OUTLINE

- 1 The introductory paragraph introduces the topic, gives the context and rationale for the research and sets out the writer's stance and major claim(s)
 - 1.1 The hook may introduce the topic in an interesting or artful way
 - 1.2 The context places the topic in its socio-historical (Source 1) or scholarly situation (Source 2; Source 3)
 - 1.3 The rationale explains why it is important to research and read about this topic now (Source 4)
 - 1.4 The thesis statement sets out the writer's stance and previews the major claim(s) in the paper

- 2 The first topic sentence specifies the first claim in support of the thesis
 - 2.1 The first supporting point gives the first reason supporting the claim
 - 2.1.1 The first explanation/piece of evidence supports the first argument (Source 1; Source 4)
 - 2.2 The second supporting point gives the second reason supporting the claim
 - 2.2.1 The first explanation/piece of evidence supports the second argument (Source 3)
 - 2.2.2 The first explanation/piece of evidence supports the second argument (Source 2)
 - 2.3 The concluding sentence reconnects the supporting points, evidence and explanations to the thesis

3. ...

- 7 The concluding paragraph reformulates the writer's stance and major claims and provides a sense of closure
 - 7.1 The first concluding point may reformulate the stance of the paper
 - 7.2 The second concluding point may reformulate the major claims of the paper
 - 7.3 The final concluding point may link back to the context or rationale of the paper and closes the paper with a final thought

EXAMPLE TOPIC OUTLINE

- 1) **Introduction** – interesting/artful intro. to topic; socio-historical context (Source 1)/scholarly context (Source 2; Source 3); rationale (Source 4); thesis statement = stance + major claim(s)
- 2) **Definition** – 1st sup. point = reason/argument 1 + explanation/evidence (Source 1; Source 4); 2nd sup. point = reason/argument 2 + explanation/evidence (Source 3) + explanation/evidence (Source 2)
- 3) ...
- 7) **Conclusion** – reformulate stance + major claims; link back to hook/context/rationale + final thought