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 ALPHANUMERIC TOPIC OUTLINE

I. introductory paragraph = topic + context + rationale + stance + major claim(s)
   A. hook = interesting/artful intro. to topic
   B. context = socio-historical (Source 1)/scholarly situation (Source 2; Source 3)
   C. rationale = why imp. to research topic now (Source 4)
   D. thesis statement = stance + major claim(s)

II. topic sentence 1 = 1st claim re. thesis
   A. 1st sup. point = reason/argument 1
      1. explanation/evidence (Source 1; Source 4)
   B. 2nd sup. point = reason/argument 2
      1. explanation/evidence (Source 3)
      2. explanation/evidence (Source 2)
   C. concluding sentence = links sup. → thesis

III. ...

VII. concluding paragraph = stance + major claims + closure
    A. reformulate stance
    B. reformulate major claims
    C. link back to hook/context/rationale + 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