Research Paper Outline Template

Paper Topic:

Introduction: Write a draft introduction paragraph. Start with a “hook” to get reader’s attention. Provide background for thesis moving from general to specific.

Thesis:

Body of Paper (This is just a sample, you do not need to follow it exactly)

I. Main Topic #1
   Claim: write complete sentence for a claim on the topic
      A. Subsection 1
         1. Evidence
         2. Evidence
      B. Subsection 2
         1. Evidence
         2. Evidence
            a. More specific evidence/ quotation/ statistic
      Transition sentence:

II. Main Topic #2
   Claim:
      A. Evidence
      B. Evidence
      C. Subsection
         1. Evidence
         2. Evidence
      Transition sentence:

III. Main Topic #3
    Claim:

Continue outline based on template. You should have around 3-5 main topics for your paper. Each one needs a claim and a transition between topics.
**SAMPLE**

**Thesis:** Although Napoleon Bonaparte ultimately failed militarily, his political accomplishments helped to shape modern Europe.

I. **Military**
   
   Many of Napoleon’s initial military successes were often the result of his focus on mobility and artillery, but he later abandoned these principles, leading to his ultimate demise.

   A. **Strategies**
      
      1. Mobility
      2. Out maneuver old slow armies
   
   B. **Artillery**
      
      1. Relayed on cannons to defeat larger Austrian army
   
   C. **Successes**
      
      1. Austerlitz
   
   D. **Failures**
      
      1. Russia
         
         a. causes
         b. military campaign/ strategic approach
         c. results
      2. Leipzig
      3. Waterloo
         
         a. Napoleon’s decisions
         b. could outcome have been different?

   Transition: Although Napoleon was defeated and exiled, his ideals would continue to shape Europe

II. **Domestic Achievements**

   Some of Napoleon’s greatest accomplishments were the political and social changes he brought to France.

   A. **Napoleonic Code**

   *Continue with more evidence and other subsections*

   Transition: While Napoleon helped to shape modern France, his greatest impact would be the wave of Nationalism that would sweep Europe.

III. **Nationalism**

   *Continue with example of Napoleon spreading Nationalism and some of the changes that would occur throughout Europe in the years that followed*