

## Outline Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

The preliminary outline is based on what you know about your topic at this moment and on what you *suspect* you will discover in your research. Since it is based on supposition, there is no need to include all of your actual evidence in the preliminary outline. Its function is to give focus to your argument and make you aware of possible opposing viewpoints. The final outline and arguments will probably be revised on the basis of what you discover in the course of your research. It will be much longer because it will contain both your evidence and your analysis of it. Use the following form.

Research question:

I. Main assertion #1 (reason #1 of your argument)

- A. Supporting assertion if needed
- B. Supporting assertion if needed

II. Main assertion #2 (reason #2 of your argument)

- A. Supporting assertion if needed
- B. Supporting assertion if needed

III. Main assertion #3 (reason #3 of your argument)

- A. Supporting assertion if needed
- B. Supporting assertion if needed

(Note: You are not limited to 3 reasons in support of your argument; if you have more, each one should be stated as a Roman numeral.)

IV. Possible opposing arguments if present and your refutation of the argument

- A. Opposing argument #1 and your refutation of that argument
- B. Opposing argument #2 and your refutation of that argument

Conclusion: What your argument and research has led you to believe.

Research question:

I. First Assertion:

A.

B.

II. Second Assertion:

A.

B.

III. Third Assertion:

A.

B.

IV. Opposing Arguments:

A. Argument A

1. Refutation

B. Argument B

1. Refutation

Conclusion reached:

I approve of this preliminary outline: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Supervisor's signature)