

IRR Outline Template: AP Seminar (See CTLS for examples)

Outline Basics: Open a new Word document. Type capital “I” then a period, to start your outline. **Tab** to create a new subsection. **Shift-Tab** to back out to the previous subcategory.

Introduction (*do not include these questions- or answers to them- in your outline. They are to help you decide what to include*).

- Follow inverted pyramid structure:
 - o How will you contextualize the larger issue? (your team’s RQ/ topic)
 - o What evidence will you cite to contextualize the issue? (cite 2-3 sources)
 - o How will you narrow to your individual focus/ lens/ perspective?
 - o What evidence will you cite to contextualize *your* focus?
 - o How will you bridge to your RQ? (something like, “these findings raise the question...”)
 - o What is your working RQ? (answer it in your thesis)
 - o What is your working thesis? (should be an explanatory answer to your RQ, not argumentative. Consider using your subtopics in your thesis).

Body Section 1: Title (subcategory titles should be specific and concise if you use them. Consider NOT using them in the actual paper)

- Topic sentence that anchors the paragraph. Should include a subclaim that addresses part 1 of the thesis.
- What evidence will you use? (at least 2 sources, but 3 or more is better; not all 1 source in a row)
- What major points will you make based on the arguments/ ideas from your sources? (commentary / analysis)
- What different sources/ perspectives/ stakeholders will you synthesize in this section? (to score high, must put sources in direct conversation at least once in each body section).

Body Section 2: Title (see above)

- Transitional topic sentence (e.g., subclaim that addresses 2nd part of thesis)
- What evidence will you use? (at least 2 sources, but 3 or more is better; not all 1 source in a row)
- What major points will you make based on the arguments/ ideas from your sources? (commentary / analysis)
- How will you bridge/ connect these two subcategories? (can you link this section to the previous in some way so each section doesn’t feel like a separate paper?)
- What different sources/ perspectives/ stakeholders will you synthesize in this section? (to score high, must put sources in direct conversation at least once in each body section).

Body Section 3: Title (see above)

- Transitional topic sentence (e.g., subclaim that addresses 2nd part of thesis)
- What evidence will you use? (at least 2 sources, but 3 or more is better; not all 1 source in a row)
- What major points will you make based on the arguments/ ideas from your sources? (commentary / analysis)
- How will you bridge/ connect these two subcategories? (can you link this section to the previous in some way so each section doesn’t feel like a separate paper?)
- What different sources/ perspectives/ stakeholders will you synthesize in this section? (to score high, must put sources in direct conversation at least once in each body section).

Conclusion

- How will you conclude? Do you want a separate conclusion paragraph? Do you want to merge it with a recommendation section?
 - o Conclusion

- o Recommendations / Solutions
- o Limitations and Implications

Other Considerations:

- Have you considered multiple perspectives? Including limitations and implications of your sources' arguments?
- Have you explicitly discussed the credibility and relevance of the evidence you're using? Remember, use minimal footnotes. Instead, tack on attribution and source credibility through appositive phrases. See high scoring IRR samples for how to do this. **MUST INCLUDE SOURCE CREDIBILITY IN YOUR OUTLINE!**
- Have you thought about combining sentences / precision of language in order to maximize words? This is more for the draft.