

Outline for First Semester Paper

First read: [WH Semester 1 Paper Requirements](#)

Review the Rubric: [WH Semester 1 Paper Rubric](#)

Please complete the outline and thesis by adding in your notes from your sources.

Remember:

- You can make the questions into separate paragraphs if you wish.
- Each paragraph (except for the conclusion) must contain a claim (topic sentence), historical evidence and supportive reasoning.
- Outline should [contain in-text citations](#) for each body paragraph.

I. Introductory paragraph

- A broad historical overview related to your civilization from prehistory through 1500 CE. including other innovations of your civilization (HINT - the other inventions that your group is researching)
- Explanation of what was going on in your civilization when the innovation was created/further developed

Introduction details + Background

1. "In an honor-based society such as the Vikings, men stood ready to defend their honor and good name at any moment" is a good way to represent what type of people the Vikings were.
2. The Viking age had a variety of different contributions and dozens of extraordinary inventions. For example, many people did not know that Vikings had a democratic government called "Thing" or that spears were the most commonly used weapon by the Vikings.
3. Longships were one of the biggest inventions done by the Vikings and are still widely known to this day.
4. Vikings were known as prominent war lords, so weapons were generally essential to their everyday lives.
5. Many weapon owners like to design their weapons with personal embellishments.
6. The Vikings were primarily active from 800 to 1050 CE and the medieval age.
7. They were based in modern-day Denmark alongside other Scandinavian countries, like Norway and Sweden.
8. Weapons were used during Vikings' daily lives and were an important daily essential.
9. Weapons that Vikings mainly consisted of weapons like spears, bows and arrows, knives, and axes.

Sources Used:

“Viking Age Weapons | Archaeology of the Viking Age Class Notes | Fiveable.”

Fiveable, 2025,

fiveable.me/archaeology-of-the-viking-age/unit-5/viking-age-weapons/study-guide/Fy7Jw2RWKyGx79O6. Accessed 16. Oct. 2025 and Pre-research

National Museum of Denmark. “The Viking Age - National Museum of

Denmark.” *National Museum of Denmark*, 2019,

en.natmus.dk/historical-knowledge/denmark/prehistoric-period-until-1050-ad/the-viking-age/. Accessed 23. Oct. 2025

The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica. “Viking | History, Exploration, Facts, &

Maps.” *Encyclopedia Britannica*, Adam Augustyn, 24 Aug. 2018,

www.britannica.com/topic/Viking-people. Accessed 16. Oct. 2025

Thesis: The development (invention of) weapons by the Vikings had a significant impact in that it provided protection and helped achieve conquests and win battles

II. 1st Body Paragraph

Topic Sentence: The development of Weapons by the Vikings began around 800 to 1050 CE

- A detailed description of the specific "important" development of that Innovation
 - Why was it needed?
 - How did it work?

Invention Introductory

1. Weapons were primarily used by the Vikings for offensive and defensive measures.
2. Vikings were known as naval fighters and raided many territories and regions.
3. They needed weapons for those conquests to be able to protect themselves and to fight against their enemies.

4. Vikings used weapons for both offensive and defensive procedures, so they worked as a protection mechanism for them and their people.
5. Spears were mainly used for long-range and thrusting, whilst axes were used for short distance but some were used for long range depending on how big it was.
6. Swords were seen as prized possessions and were very expensive to the Vikings, so some warriors would bury their swords with them.
7. Axes were used in hand to hand combat, but also swords and knives.
8. Weapons were also used for activities like hunting, carving, and cutting wood.
9. Most Vikings were farmers, but a lot of them were warriors at sea.

Sources Used:

Pre-research and "Viking Weapons." *JORVIK Viking Centre*,
www.jorvikvikingcentre.co.uk/the-vikings/viking-weapons/.
Accessed 25 Oct. 2025

The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica. "Viking | History, Exploration, Facts, & Maps." *Encyclopedia Britannica*, Adam Augustyn, 24 Aug. 2018,
www.britannica.com/topic/Viking-people. Accessed 16. Oct. 2025

History on the Net. "Viking Weapons and Armor - History." *History*, 29 May 2018,
www.historyonthenet.com/viking-weapons-and-armor. Accessed 25. Oct. 2025

III. 2nd Body Paragraph - First Impact

- Questions to consider
 - How did the innovation impact civilization?
 - How did the innovation make the civilization stronger?
 - Did the innovation impact other civilizations?
 - Did the innovation have negative consequences? If so, what were they?
 - Did the innovation make day-to-day life easier?

1st impact - Protection/Defensive

1. The Vikings civilization was known to be a dense community, which means there were a lot of people in need of protection. This means that they need a lot of soldiers to be able to protect all those people.
2. Without weapons, they'd have nothing to protect themselves.

3. The use of weapons is crucial to Vikings because it enforces a safer environment for the Vikings.
4. This shows that weapons impact the people of the Viking community by making their home a more safe and carefree environment.
5. Vikings had a formation called the shield wall, which they'd get very close together and basically have no space in between them to serve as a barrier.
6. The Vikings used armor like shields, helmets, and chainmail as protection.
7. For example, the Trelleborg shield had calfskin on them, which gave it an extra layer of protection, possible fire resistance, and camouflaged the wood grain.
8. Chainmail was a type of armor used by the vikings but only by a certain few. Iron armor was mainly used by mercenaries, whilst chainmail was expensive and rare.
9. Angon spear head was used to stop an enemy's shield.

Sources Used: Pre-Research

The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica. "Viking | History, Exploration, Facts, & Maps." *Encyclopedia Britannica*, Adam Augustyn, 24 Aug. 2018,

www.britannica.com/topic/Viking-people. Accessed 16. Oct. 2025

Viking Weapons." *JORVIK Viking Centre*, www.jorvikvikingcentre.co.uk/the-vikings/viking-weapons/ Accessed 25. Oct 2025

National Museum of Denmark. "Weapons - National Museum of Denmark."

National Museum of Denmark, 2019,

en.natmus.dk/historical-knowledge/denmark/prehistoric-period-until-1050-ad/the-viking-age/weapons/. Accessed 23. Oct 2025

IV. 3rd Body Paragraph - Second impact

- Questions to consider
 - How did the innovation impact civilization?
 - How did the innovation make the civilization stronger?
 - Did the innovation impact other civilizations?

- Did the innovation have negative consequences? If so, what were they?
- Did the innovation make day-to-day life easier?

2nd Impact - Offensive

1. Weapons made a huge influence on the Vikings because they were a key tool during battles.
2. They're seafaring warriors.
3. The Vikings primarily use weapons to achieve victory over other civilizations.
4. They're known for their raids and conquests, so it is only natural they would need an offensive tool to secure their success.
5. Although the weapons would cause harm to civilizations in the end, it was useful to the Vikings to secure more land and fight off enemies.
6. Saex was used for hunting and Saex is a type of knife.
7. Swords were primarily used to take down enemies and for combat.
8. Ireland, Scotland, and England were primary targets for Vikings.
9. Weapons were an important factor in securing success during warfare for Vikings.
10. Spears were the most commonly used weapon for long range and the generic choice for less fortunate fighters.
11. The wedge of the axe had something called the "bearded" feature. This feature allows Vikings to hook their axes to the rim of enemy shields so they could control it and more or less penetrate it.

Sources Used:

The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica. "Viking | History, Exploration, Facts, & Maps." *Encyclopedia Britannica*, Adam Augustyn, 24 Aug. 2018,

www.britannica.com/topic/Viking-people. Accessed 16. Oct. 2025 and Pre-research

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fiveable.me/archaeology-of-the-viking-age/unit-5/viking-age-weapons/study-guide/Fy7Jw2RWKyGx79O6. Accessed 16. Oct. 2025

V. Conclusion

- Restate Thesis
- Summarize main points

Weapons were extremely pivotal during the Vikings age. They served a significant purpose as both offensive and defensive. The evolution of weapons by the Vikings bestowed an influential impact that served as a defensive mechanism, and as an offensive countermeasure that helped defeat other civilizations and secure success.

There should be NO NEW information in your conclusion unless it's a direct quote.