

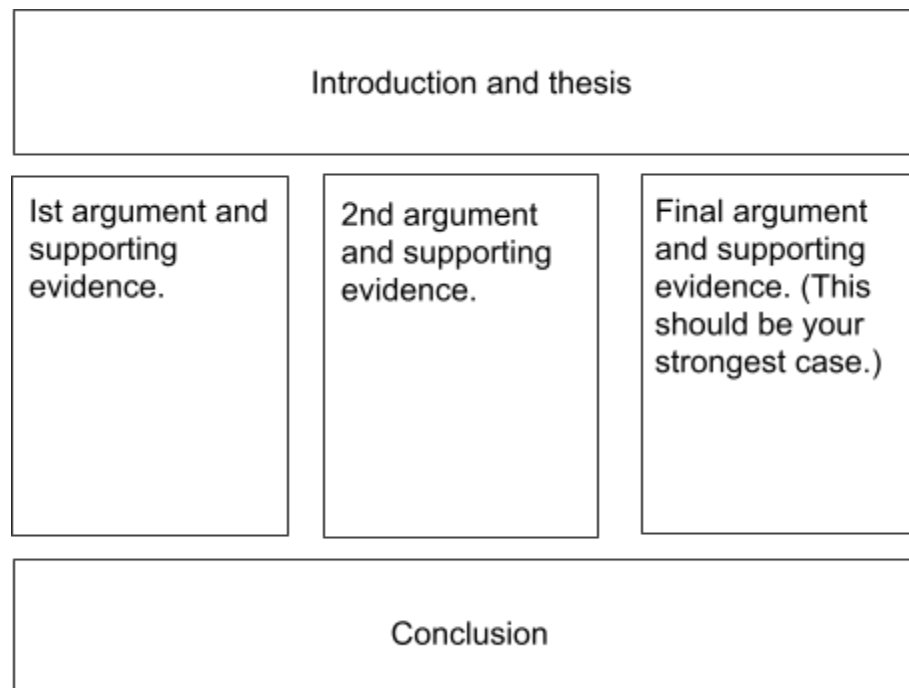
BRVGS Research Paper and Outline

Paper Basics:

Your paper should consist of three main portions: An introduction, body, and conclusion. The introduction will include your thesis and purpose of the paper. It is here that you introduce your topic to the reader (why is it important and what are the benefits of investigating this topic) and set up the major point of discussion for the paper. It is here that you state your research problem and write your thesis statement. The thesis should be your viewpoint of the paper - not a subject statement. This should be an assertive statement that you are set to support.

The body of the paper is where you are presenting your evidence and arguments. The “rule of 3” states that you should have 3 major arguments that support your thesis. Start with a strong point, move to a stronger point, and finish with your strongest argument. This portion requires extensive research. If you are lacking, go find more! If you can’t find any, it probably means that you are traveling down the wrong path or that your argument isn’t as significant as you originally thought. The body is where the “synthesis” of the paper happens. Make sure that all of your writing is linked to and supports your thesis statement.

The conclusion, although last, is an extremely important part of your paper. It is here that you summarize the supporting points of your paper and reiterate your thesis. This is not a one paragraph section, but it does cleanly connect the point of all of your writing. Spend some time here - this is the last thing the reader sees.



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Distribution of Sources: General expectation is that sources = number of pages. Sources should be mixed on a page. DO NOT cite general facts and DO NOT cite until you change sources UNLESS you are using specific data. Use numerical data whenever applicable in your paper.

Outline: Title of Paper

- I. Thesis Statement and Introductory Paragraph (Introduce your statement and all areas of argument.)
- II. Mini-thesis of first major supporting point
 - A. Topic sentence of 1st supporting paragraph
 - a. Supporting evidence and discussion (APA in-text citation)
 - b. Supporting evidence and discussion (APA in-text citation)
 - c. Transitional sentence or idea
 - B. Topic sentence of 2nd supporting point
 - a. Supporting evidence and discussion (APA in-text citation)
 - b. Supporting evidence and discussion (APA in-text citation)
 - c. Transitional sentence or idea
 - C. Etc. as needed
- III. Mini-thesis of second major supporting point
 - A. Topic sentence of 1st supporting paragraph
 - a. Supporting evidence and discussion (APA in-text citation)
 - b. Supporting evidence and discussion (APA in-text citation)
 - c. Transitional sentence or idea
 - B. Topic sentence of 2nd supporting point
 - a. Supporting evidence and discussion (APA in-text citation)
 - b. Supporting evidence and discussion (APA in-text citation)
 - c. Transitional sentence or idea
 - C. Etc. as needed
- IV. Mini-thesis of third major supporting point
 - A. Topic sentence of 1st supporting paragraph
 - d. Supporting evidence and discussion (APA in-text citation)
 - e. Supporting evidence and discussion (APA in-text citation)
 - f. Transitional sentence or idea
 - B. Topic sentence of 2nd supporting point
 - d. Supporting evidence and discussion (APA in-text citation)
 - e. Supporting evidence and discussion (APA in-text citation)
 - f. Transitional sentence or idea
 - C. Etc. as needed
- V. Conclusion - restate your thesis and summarize your supporting claims. (Do not reiterate your original thesis in the exact same words).

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Outline Requirements:

1. All outlines should be saved to Google docs and shared to your teacher with editing rights.
2. Create a paper page on your website and put the outline document as an attachment by date set by your Senior Advisor. This will be used for your timed writing so it should be VERY complete.
3. Outline should be for the ENTIRE paper – which means that you need to go through all of your sources and really see what they have to say. Approach your data collection with an open mind – do not twist your research into supporting what you want it to. Make sure that what you write is based on your research – you may have to make adjustments in your original thought.
4. You are probably looking at a 4-6 page outline for an 8-12 page paper. Be specific – avoid generalization.
5. Use hard data whenever possible – Indicate data charts and other data that will be included in your appendices within your outline.
6. If you decide to use direct quotes from your sources, please indicate so in your supporting evidence bullets.
7. As you create your outline, you may discover that you are missing information or that you need to expand your search into other areas. Please indicate these areas by highlighting them before continuing with your outline. **YOU WILL NEED TO GO BACK AND FILL THESE SPACES IN WITH MORE RESEARCH.**
8. Spend the most time on creating a solid, well organized thesis. The thesis and introductory paragraph will set up the organization for the entire paper – don't skip them and come back to them. You may need to make adjustments later, but you should, at minimum, have a solid working thesis. Your secondary focus should be on developing the mini-theses for the supporting points of the main thesis.