



Research Paper Outline Template

Title

Write your working title here: _____

Tip: Keep it clear and specific. A good title reflects your research question and gives readers an idea of the scope.

Abstract (if required)

In 150–250 words, summarize your study here:

Tip: Include the purpose of your research, methods used, main findings, and significance. Keep it concise and focused.

Introduction

Hook (attention-grabbing opening): _____

Background (context or key issue leading to your question):

Thesis Statement (your central claim): _____



Tip: Your introduction should set up why the topic matters and clearly state your research aim.

Literature Review

Theme/Topic 1: _____ (add key sources and their findings)

Theme/Topic 2: _____ (add key sources and their findings)

Theme/Topic 3: _____ (add key sources and their findings)

Tip: Don't just list studies — group them by theme or debate to show patterns and gaps.

Methodology

Research Design (qualitative, quantitative, or mixed):

Data Sources (surveys, interviews, case studies, archives, etc.):



Analysis Plan (how you will process and interpret data):

Tip: This section explains how you're answering the research question.

Results/Findings

Key Finding 1: _____

Key Finding 2: _____

Key Finding 3: _____

Tip: Write short notes now; expand into detail when drafting. Focus on outcomes, not interpretation.

Discussion

Interpretation (how do these findings answer your research question?):

Implications (why these results matter in your field):

Limitations (what your study couldn't cover):



Future Research (where others could continue):

Tip: This section connects your findings back to your thesis and shows awareness of context.

Conclusion

Restated Thesis: _____

Summary of Main Points: _____

Final Takeaway/Recommendation: _____

Tip: Keep it brief — this section reinforces your argument and leaves the reader with closure.

References

List your sources here: _____

Tip: Follow the required citation style (APA, MLA, Chicago, etc.) and double-check formatting.