

# ESSAY OUTLINE FORM

A strong, well-written essay integrates English skills with U.S. Government content information. The introduction or thesis paragraph is really the key to the essay because it proposes the original thesis and sets the stage for how the thesis will be proven. Therefore, it is imperative to demonstrate a clear thesis and concise plan of attack in the introduction. The body of the essay must be fact-filled with accurate relevant evidence, with the most importance information written first. As always, it is expected that correct grammar and spelling will be used.

## I. **Thesis or Introductory Paragraph** (2-4 sentences)

- A. States the thesis (what you are going to prove) and explains the plan of attack
- B. Includes a transition sentence

## II. **Body of the Essay**

### A. First **topic sentence** (an insightful statement that connects back to your thesis)

- 1. Use of outside facts to support the topic
  - a) ...
  - b) ...
  - c) ...
- 2. Use of a **transition sentence** that links this paragraph back to what you are trying to prove in your thesis (Unless you link this paragraph to your thesis, you have no analysis in your essay)

### B. Second **topic sentence** (an insightful statement as well as a smooth transition from the previous paragraph)

- 1. Use of outside facts to support the topic
  - a) ...
  - b) ...
  - c) ...
- 2. Use of a **transition sentence** that links this paragraph back to what you are trying to prove in your thesis (Unless you link this paragraph to your thesis, you have no analysis in your essay)

### C. Third **topic sentence**

- 1. Use of outside facts to support the topic
  - a) ...
  - b) ...
  - c) ...
- 2. Use of a **transition sentence** that links this paragraph back to what you are trying to prove in your thesis (Unless you link this paragraph to your thesis, you have no analysis in your essay)

## III. **Conclusion**

- A. Restatement of the thesis in different words
- B. Memorable ending sentence that can link the topic to what happens in the future.

(compliments of T. Hartlove)