

## SAMPLE OUTLINE FOR A POSITION RESEARCH PAPER

- I. Introduction
  - A. Introduce the topic (include your thesis statement)
  - B. Provide background on the topic
  - C. Assert the thesis (your view of the issue)

- II. Counter Argument
  - A. Summarize the counterclaims
  - B. Provide supporting information for counterclaims
  - C. Refute the counterclaims
  - D. Give evidence for argument

- III. Your Argument
  - A. Assert point #1 of your claims
    - 1. Give your opinion
    - 2. Provide support
  - B. Assert point #2 of your claims
    - 1. Give your opinion
    - 2. Provide support
  - C. Assert point #3 of your claims
    - 1. Give your opinion
    - 2. Provide support

- IV. Conclusion
  - A. Restate your argument
  - B. Provide a plan of action

**5 Tips in Writing a Position Paper:**

1. Form your opening statement. It should be an assertion - an opinion you want your readers to adopt or an action you want them to take. Make it brief and clear. Don't be wishy-washy.
2. Keep a calm, but determined tone. If you sound hysterical or rant like a maniac, people won't take it seriously.
3. Open with something catchy. Use a surprising fact, a snappy quote, or an anecdote.
4. Work through your evidence one piece at a time. Most writers like to save the best for last.
5. Devote some time to opposing views. Anticipate and acknowledge what the opposition will say and then do your best to explain the weaknesses in their position.

