



- B. The interior of my car is no better than the exterior. The upholstery and carpet are stained from years of carrying around two kids and a dog and the headliner is coming loose in several places.
- C. Who can blame my kids for not wanting their friends to ride in such a car?
- V. Conclusion

Creating an Outline

1. Begin by filling in your thesis.
2. Next, select the main ideas you will use to support your thesis. Remember that you will develop one main idea in each body paragraph of the essay.
3. Generate additional ideas if you don't have enough main topics to support your thesis.
4. Using the Outline Template found below, write a tentative topic sentence for each body paragraph (next to each Roman numeral).
5. Generate ideas to develop each body paragraph.
6. Decide which supporting ideas to use and the order in which to present them. Add them to your outline.
7. Revise your thesis statement to fit the ideas you will develop in the essay. If you intend to use a blueprinted thesis (one that includes the main topics of support), you should list the topics of support in the order you will introduce them in the essay.

Generating More Ideas

As you work on creating an outline for your essay, you will probably find that you need to generate additional ideas to support your thesis or to support the topic sentences of your body paragraphs. Generate ideas by brainstorming, freewriting, listing, clustering, or dividing (see Chapter 3)—whichever seems most appropriate for the topic you have selected and/or that you feel most comfortable with. You should understand that generating additional ideas is a normal part of several stages of the writing process.

Writing Practice 3

Create a phrase or sentence outline for the topic you are developing using the steps above.

Essay Outline Template

(Note: Use as many main topics, support topics, and specific supports as necessary.)

I. Introduction

Thesis: _____
