ESSAY OUTLINE FORM

Main (Controlling) Idea of the essay: _____

Three main points of argument (1)_____ (2) _____

(3) _____

INTRODUCTION: [Introduction should start on a general level with lead-in statements and gradually focus in on the specific topic of the essay. In the introduction, the reader should find the main idea of the essay expressed in the thesis sentence. Also in the introduction, the reader should be able to tell what specific points about the main idea will be discussed and in what order they will be developed. The lead in statements *could* (1) make a striking assertion, (2) use a split anecdote (a story that is begun in the introduction and is finished in the conclusion), (3) use an interesting detail, statistic, or quotation, or (4) ask a provocative question. The introduction should make the reader want to continue reading.]

Lead-in statements:_____

_____

_____

Thesis (which includes points of argument):_____

_____

BODY: [Each topic sentence should be a major point of argument which supports the thesis statement. Primary support sentences are general statements which support the topic sentence. The secondary support sentences (or concrete illustrations), which support the primary support sentences, provide specific details, quotes, statistics, or real-life examples.]

Body Paragraph 1 (develops first point of argument):

Topic sentence_____

_____

    Primary Support:_____

_____

        Secondary Support:_____

_____

    Primary Support:_____

_____

        Secondary Support:_____

_____

    Primary Support:_____

_____

        Secondary Support:_____

_____

Body Paragraph 2 (develops second point of argument):

Topic sentence:_____

_____

    Primary Support:_____

_____

Secondary Support: _____

_____

Primary Support: _____

_____

Secondary Support: _____

_____

Primary Support: _____

_____

Secondary Support: _____

_____

Body Paragraph 3 (develops third point of argument):

Topic sentence: _____

_____

Primary Support: _____

_____

Secondary Support: _____

_____

Primary Support: _____

_____

Secondary Support: _____

_____

Primary Support: _____

_____

Secondary Support: _____

_____

CONCLUSION: [The concluding paragraph should include a general summary statement which recaps the thesis, a sentence which restates the major points of argument, and a wrap-up statement. The conclusion could also contain the end of a split anecdote that would finish the story begun in the introduction. The wrap-up statement could contain insights of the essay writer, encourage the reader to take action, emphasize the importance of one of the points of argument, or create a solid sense of finality.]

General summary statement that recaps thesis: _____

_____

Recap major points of argument: _____

_____

Wrap-up statement (consequences and insights): _____

_____

_____