

## English 102: Outlining Your Project

Here are all the elements you should consider in your outline. Feel free to be flexible with your organization, as this is just one suggestion.

\*Be sure to review the goals as you construct your outline to make sure you tie them in throughout.

\*Remember that you should tie in a personal narrative throughout all of this, but you should be showing your thinking (analysis, interpretation, critique), NOT opinion (like/dislike, agree/disagree).

### **-Introduction to your project:**

- Your interest in your topic/question

  - What are you hoping to accomplish with your project?

- Your project's exigency

  - What's important/relevant to you and your audience?

- Your position

  - How are you adding onto former research in a new and important way?

- An overview of your project

  - Explain to your reader how your paper is organized so they know what to expect

\*Don't forget to include your actual question somewhere in here

### **-Background information**

- contextualize your project

- explain any key terms or ideas that your reader should know

\*You can incorporate sources into your introduction and background information, but this should only take up a couple pages of your project, so keep that in mind.

### **-Source work**

\*How can you best organize/position your sources so that you can easily set yourself up to engage with them as well as analysis/positioning between sources? (Where do they connect, conflict, overlap, etc.?).

\*Because this is an inquiry based project, there should be a lot of questions within your project (consider organizing your project based on sub-questions that help you think about your central research question).

*present* / -Contextualize each source

  - Give some information about the author/publication/etc. as appropriate

- Summarize the source

  - Why is it useful and how does it connect to your project?

- Tie-in a direct quote or paraphrase

  - Explain what it means in your own words and how it's shaping your thinking on your question

- Analyze, interpret, and/or critique your source

- Connect and/or position this source with other sources (when appropriate)

  - How are they similar or dissimilar? Why? How does this shape your

thinking about your question?

-Transition into another source (and do some work similar to this for each source)

\*Show your thought process!

**-Conclusion**

-Bring all of your research together

What conclusions (if any) can you draw based on your research?

If there are no clear conclusions, explain why that might be.

-Exigency

What is the significance of this conclusion or lack of conclusion?

-Wrap-Up

Does this leave you with any new questions and/or ideas?

\*Don't forget to use proper MLA citations throughout as you incorporate your sources (you should select direct or indirect quotes from your sources you want to use).