

QUEST: Essay Outline

For your QUEST essay, you will compose a 4-5 paragraph-essay in the following format:

1. Introduction paragraph
2. A MEL-Con body paragraph detailing the answers to the questions Researchers One and Three answered.
3. A MEL-Con body paragraph detailing the answers to the questions Researcher Two answered.
4. **OPTIONAL:** You may have a third body paragraph if needed to explore other issues you found with your research.
5. Conclusion paragraph

Please use this document to outline your paragraphs. You will need to type your paper as cohesive paragraph units, not just this outline; however, this should give a clear writing path to follow.

Introduction Paragraph

- I: Give a lead-in statement / attention-getter: this should be one to four sentences in length, should be about your topic in general, and should serve to get the reader engaged in your paper. This is not, and should not be, your thesis!

EXAMPLE: It is not uncommon for headlines about celebrities to highlight their

dedication to their pet charities. In fact, Leonardo DiCaprio recently retired from his career as a movie actor to focus on his philanthropic pursuits. However, it can be confusing for everyday people to know which charities are worthwhile.

Notice how this is generally related to the topic of charities without being too specific about my point of the essay? That is what an attention-getter does! Now, you try:

- II. Introduce your topic and provide a VAGUE background. DO NOT offer your researched evidence yet.

EXAMPLE: Just because most people are not celebrities, it does not mean that they cannot make a difference to people in need. Mr. DiCaprio's favorite charity focuses on environmental issues. There are many different types of charities out there servicing people, instead of animals. One charity making a big impact in people's lives is The March of Dimes. This charity, which focuses on helping expectant mothers avoid premature birth for their unborn babies, has saved lives for years.

Notice how the attention-getter was tied into the introduction of the paper's topic? That is called a transition, and the best papers have LOADS of them throughout the entire essay. Your goal is to have a near seamless paper with solid transitions.

Your turn (highlight your transition):

III. Offer a glimpse of what you will show in your body paragraphs.

EXAMPLE: As evidenced from multiple sources, The March of Dimes has been around for a long time and has a long record of helping to save the lives of many people. This charity is run really well and is a safe bet for anyone looking to donate to a worthy and legitimate cause, which is not the case for every charity out there.

Your turn:

IV. Provide your thesis.

EXAMPLE: Despite the fact that there are scam charities out there, The March of Dimes is incredibly worthwhile and deserving of potential donators' time, effort,

and money.

Body Paragraphs (You need a minimum of TWO body paragraphs)

These are to be MEL-Con paragraphs containing the information listed above.
REMEMBER the format:

- M**ain Idea: What is THIS paragraph about? Provide one sentence about this.
- T**ransition
- E**vidence: Provide one fact from your researched information with MLA citation.
- L**ink: Take this from your Analysis column on your Organizational Chart.
- Transition
- E**vidence: Provide one fact from your researched information with MLA citation.
- L**ink: Take this from your Analysis column on your Organizational Chart.
- Transition
- E**vidence: Provide one fact from your researched information with MLA citation.
- L**ink: Take this from your Analysis column on your Organizational Chart.
- (Repeat more Transitions, Evidences, and Links as needed)*
- Transition
- C**ONclusion: Wrap up this paragraph.

Conclusion Paragraph

- I. Rephrase and summarize your main ideas.
- II. Rephrase your thesis statement.
- III. End with a CALL TO ACTION for your reader. What do you want them to do with the Information you have provided in your paper?