**General Outline**

There are a number of ways to organize your writing. The thought to keep in mind is does your organizational method provide a clear, linear path from the first sentence to the last sentence. Once you’ve planned, put your thoughts in order using the outline. The outline allows you to organize before writing the first sentence of your essay. Some outlines do not include the introduction paragraph and the conclusion paragraphs as a part of the outline; however, for our learning purposes, the introductory paragraph will be the first Roman numeral and the conclusion will be the last.

I. Introduction

* Hook/Lead
* Thesis

II. Body Paragraph 1 – Topic 1

* Topic Sentence
* Evidence/example/proof

III. Body Paragraph 2

* Topic Sentence
* Evidence/example/proof

IV. Body Paragraph 3

* Topic Sentence
* Evidence/example/proof

 V. Conclusion

* Lasting thought for the reader/Thesis statement as a theme