

Outlining a Persuasive Essay

You should usually avoid repetition of main or supporting points in your outline. If your outline repeats ideas, your essay will be repetitive and readers may lose interest. Remember that the purpose of an outline is to help make your essay as interesting and informative as possible.

An effective outline is easy to read because it uses few words to convey a lot of information. The shorter and more descriptive you make the labels for your main and supporting points, the easier the outline is to read. Try to follow a similar structure for all of your labels. For example, you might label all your main points with headlines between three and five words long and label all supporting points with complete sentences that are less than one line long.

Formatting an Outline

Outlines follow a specific format. The main and supporting points are divided by a system of numbers and letters, followed by a period. The top level of the outline is usually preceded by Roman numerals I., II., III.... The second level is usually preceded by capital letters A., B., C....

The number of main points you have depends on your issue and the persuasive strategies you plan to use. However, all persuasive essays should begin with an introduction and end with a conclusion.

Here is a sample outline format for a persuasive essay:

- Title
- Introduction
 - Main Point #1
 - Main Point #2
 - Main Point #3
- Main Point #1
 - Supporting Point #1
 - Supporting Point #2
- Main Point #2
 - Supporting Point #1
 - Supporting Point #2
- Main Point #3
 - Supporting Point #1
 - Supporting Point #2
- Other Points of View
 - Point of View #1
 - Point of View #2
- Conclusion