

PRELIMINARY OUTLINE

Even though the I.S.P.'s preliminary outline goes one step further than the statement of organization for an essay, it is very important to remember that it does essentially the same thing (it sets up the arguable points which, if true, help prove each of the mini-essay's thesis which in turn are arguable and help to prove, if true, the research projects hypothesis).

In order to set up an effective outline for your research project, you should, therefore, think in two separate steps: First, what arguable points will help prove your I.S.P.'s hypothesis (these will become the thesis for your mini-essays, and will be written out as Roman numerals of your outline); second, what arguable points will help prove the thesis statements for each of these mini-essays (these will become the topic sentences for each mini-essay and will be written out as the capital letters of your outline.)

Now you are ready to prepare a preliminary outline for your study project.

SAMPLE

Thesis

I. Sub-thesis statement #1

- A. Topic sentence A
- B. Topic Sentence B
- C. Topic sentence C

II. Sub-thesis statement #2

- A. Topic sentence A
- B. Topic sentence B
- C. Topic sentence C

III. Sub-thesis statement #3

- A. Topic sentence A
- B. Topic sentence B
- C. Topic sentence C
- D. Topic sentence D

Name_____

Date_____ Per._____

Independent Study Project
Preliminary Outline Grading

_____ (5) THESIS: arguable, concise, innovative, researchable

_____ (5) SUBTHESIS ONE:
_____ Clearly concisely stated
_____ Directly supports main thesis
_____ Valid major support
_____ Valid major support
_____ Valid major support

_____ (5) SUBTHESIS TWO:
_____ Clearly concisely stated
_____ Directly supports main thesis
_____ Valid major support
_____ Valid major support
_____ Valid major support

_____ (5) SUBTHESIS THREE:
_____ Clearly concisely
_____ Directly supports main thesis
_____ Valid major support
_____ Valid major support
_____ Valid major support

_____ (5) MECHANICS: Spelling, Punctuation

_____ (5) FORMAT: Font, spacing, typing, margins, neatness

_____ (30) TOTAL

Comments:

Independent Study Project
Preliminary Outline

Hypothesis: Disposable diapers are a detriment to society.

I. Introduction.

II. Disposable diapers are a menace to the environment.

- A. They fill up landfills.
- B. They litter public communal areas.
- C. Their production adds to environmental pollution.

III. Health hazards exist where disposable diapers are used.

- A. Babies who are subjected to disposable diapers incur a greater incidence of diaper rash.
- B. Carelessly littered diapers become hotbeds of disease.
- C. Used diapers in household disposal situations put family members at risk of disease.

IV. Disposable diapers are not cost effective.

- A. Cloth diapers are cheaper to purchase and to use.
- B. Manufacturers do not reap much of a profit from these diapers.
- C. Disposal of the used product is too expensive.

V. Conclusion.