Research Paper Outline

I. Introduction paragraph:
   A. Hook/first sentences: This is where you want to grab your reader’s attention. It might be helpful for some research papers to have the first few sentences give an indication of what kind of research question you will be asking. This indication could be about a larger problem involving your topic that you will explore more closely throughout your paper.
   
   B. Give background information: The reader may need a brief overview of the topic to understand what you will be writing in detail about in your paper. Try to keep this section of your introduction brief, but descriptive enough to give context to your thesis.

   C. Thesis statement: What is the argument or claim you are making on the topic? Your thesis could be how does your topic correlate to a larger topic or what is your stance on the topic.

II. Body paragraphs (usually 3, but there can be more or less, depending on the assignment)

   A. Topic/opening sentence: This is where you want to introduce the one of the main points you are going to discuss about your topic.

   B. The evidence: What evidence is there to support your claim or main point? A research paper is built on using strong evidence to support any claim you make.

   C. Analyze: You want to address how the evidence you use to support your claim is valid.

   D. Link back to thesis: How does all of this information relate back to your thesis statement? Reinforce that this main point supports the claim in your thesis.
E. **Transition:** Lead your reader to the next main point with a transition sentence.

**III. Concluding paragraph:**

A. **Restate your thesis:** Restate your thesis in the first sentence of your conclusion. Make sure you reword your claim instead of copying it.

B. **Synthesize main ideas:** Take the main points of your body paragraphs and briefly discuss them again. Be sure to emphasize how they support your thesis.

C. **Wrap up:** Try to end your paper with something memorable or meaningful. Most readers will remember the end of a paper the best, so it is important to have a strong ending.