Philosophy Paper Outline

I. Introduction
   A. Introduction of Subject: "In this paper, I discuss ______ ..." Be specific about the issue you are addressing. You need to catch the reader’s attention.
   B. Thesis: Here is where you will lay out your argument. Do not discuss why your topic is important. Your other introduction sentences should have already taken care of that. Your thesis statement is that sentence or two that asserts your position on a given issue, specifically, the position that you will be arguing for in your paper.

II. Main Sections (The number of these you will have will vary depending on the length requirements of the paper) The majority of the body paper of your paper should be backing up your claim. This is where you would be using argumentative methods like logic, rhetoric, deduction and so on. You should counter objections to your claim as well. "One objection to what I have just said would be that....." You can be flexible but structuring your evidence. However, it can be helpful to follow different patterns. For example, you could try laying out your argument, posing a counter argument, then deconstructing that counter argument. You could also start the essay off by critiquing your claim, and then address the ways you circumvent those criticism.

III. Subtopics (Again, the amount of these you have per main section will vary, depending on how many point you wish to address with each section)

IV. Conclusion: In a lot of philosophy papers you might not need a conclusion, but if it ends up being 6-7 pages long, it might be necessary.
   A. Restate Thesis/Review Main Points
   B. Closing Thoughts