



Preliminary Outline

What is a preliminary outline?

- It is a rough sketch of the major ideas that will develop your preliminary thesis statement.
- It will help you determine the order of your note taking; that is, as you take notes from your different sources, you can put titles from your outline beside each note. Later, you can group the notes from different sources according to their titles developed from the outline.
- It is also subject to change as you find more information from your sources.
- It helps you find and record information that is important and to omit the information that looks appealing but is irrelevant to your paper.

How is a preliminary outline formulated?

- Make a rough list of the ideas that will help you develop your preliminary thesis statement.
- Write down the main ideas for your outline.
- Under each main idea, write down the minor elements and ideas that will develop the main idea.