

Basic IWA Outline

IWA Outline Planner

AP Seminar Performance Task 2

Name: _____ Period: _____

Purpose: Use this planner to organize your IWA before drafting. Since this is an **ARGUMENT** paper, you must:

1) Present a debate with multiple perspectives 2) Answer your research question 3) Propose a solution or resolution

PART 1: FOUNDATION

My Research Question:

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My Working Thesis (your answer to the research question):

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Stimulus Source(s) I Will Use:

Stimulus Source:	How I'll use it in my argument:

PART 2: INTRODUCTION

Your introduction should answer these questions clearly and concisely. Avoid "I think" or "I believe."

Hook/Opening: *(creative hook, relevant anecdote, or striking statistic)*

Context: *Why is this topic relevant today? How does it connect to the stimulus materials?*

The Debate: *What perspectives/lenses are in conversation about this topic?*

Research Question + Thesis: *(state your RQ, then your thesis)*

PART 3: BODY PARAGRAPHS

⚠ Key Reminders for Body Paragraphs:

- Put sources IN CONVERSATION — don't just summarize each one separately
- Connect each source to your research question and thesis
- Address multiple perspectives — show you understand the complexity
- Add YOUR analysis — you're the expert now!

Body Section 1

Main Claim:

Sources I'll use + key evidence:

My analysis/commentary: *(How does this support my thesis?)*

Body Section 2

Main Claim:

Sources I'll use + key evidence:

My analysis/commentary: *(How does this support my thesis?)*

Body Section 3 (if needed)

Main Claim:

Sources I'll use + key evidence:

My analysis/commentary: *(How does this support my thesis?)*

PART 4: COUNTERARGUMENT & REBUTTAL

⚠ **Required for top scores!** You must address objections or alternate views.

Counterargument: *What would someone who disagrees say?*

My Rebuttal: *How do I respond? Why is my position still valid?*

PART 5: CONCLUSION

My Solution/Resolution: *(What do you propose? This is required!)*

Limitations: *Is this applicable everywhere? For all people?*

Implications: *What are the consequences if your solution is adopted?*

HELPFUL LANGUAGE & TRANSITIONS

Thesis Templates:

Going against popular opinion:

"Although [issue] is considered to be [general opinion], [your position] is important to consider given the ongoing debate about [points of contention]."

Offering a new perspective:

"Both [side A] and [side B] have merits and drawbacks; however, perhaps we need to consider [your take] when trying to reach a resolution for [issue]."

Introducing Sources

"[Source], who has been researching..., concludes that..."

"As experts who have done [research] over [time], [names] believe..."

Presenting Multiple Perspectives

Connecting Sources

"To further support [Source A's] idea, [Source B] states..."

"However, [Source B] disagrees, claiming that..."

Adding Nuance

"The [lens 1], [lens 2], and [lens 3] each have their own stake in [issue]."
"Some experts agree that..."

"To a lesser extent..."
"An additional consideration..."

FINAL CHECKLIST

- ☐ My research question is clear and debatable
- ☐ My thesis answers my research question and takes a position
- ☐ I use at least ONE stimulus source as evidence
- ☐ My sources are in conversation (not just summarized separately)
- ☐ I address multiple perspectives on my topic
- ☐ I include a counterargument and rebuttal
- ☐ I propose a solution or resolution
- ☐ I discuss limitations and implications of my solution
- ☐ All sources are properly cited (MLA or APA)

Outline Option 2

Classic Argument Model

AP Seminar Individual Written Argument

Name: _____ Period: _____

IWA Task Overview

- 2,000 words max (excludes citations, bibliography, figures)
- Must integrate at least ONE stimulus source
- Must include scholarly sources
- Cite all sources (MLA or APA) + Works Cited page

I. INTRODUCTION

Sets the stage for your argument. Establishes context, introduces the theme, and ends with your thesis.

Research Question:

Introduction/Context: *(Hook, background, thematic connection to stimulus)*

Argumentative Thesis:

Your thesis should: state your position clearly, use emphatic language (should, ought, must), and preview your main claims.

Stimulus Sources to Integrate:

Stimulus Source 1:

Stimulus Source 2 (optional):

II. BODY OF YOUR ARGUMENT

A. Background Information

Define key terms and give readers the basic information they need to understand your position.

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B. Claims & Evidence (The heart of your essay)

Types of Evidence:
First-hand examples • Expert opinions • Facts & data • Scholarly research

Claim 1:

Evidence 1:	Evidence 2:	Evidence 3:

Claim 2:

Evidence 1:	Evidence 2:	Evidence 3:

Claim 3 (if needed):

Evidence 1:	Evidence 2:	Evidence 3:

III. ADDRESSING OPPOSING VIEWS

 Addressing the opposition actually makes your argument **STRONGER!** It shows you've thought critically about your topic.

Opposing Views / Counterclaims:
What would someone who disagrees with your position say?

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Limitations of Opposing View & Your Refutation:

Why is this opposing view flawed, limited, or incomplete? How do you respond?

IV. CONCLUSION

Bring your essay to a logical end. Explain the importance of your issue in a larger context.

Importance: *Why does this issue matter in the larger context?*

Solution / Resolution: *What do you propose?*

Implications: *What happens if your argument is/isn't acted upon?*

Final Statement of Conclusion:

(Your closing thought — make it memorable!)

QUICK REFERENCE: ESSAY STRUCTURE

I. Introduction	Hook → Context → Thematic connection → Research question → Thesis
II. Body	Background → Claim 1 + Evidence → Claim 2 + Evidence → (Claim 3)
III. Opposition	Counterclaim → Limitations of opposition → Your refutation
IV. Conclusion	Importance → Solution/Resolution → Implications → Final statement

Outline Option 3

IWA Outline

Individual Written Argument • 2,000 Words

Name: _____ Period: _____

TASK REQUIREMENTS

- RQ connects 2+ stimulus sources
- Integrate at least 1 stimulus source
- Include scholarly sources

- Address opposing/alternate views
- Propose solution/resolution
- Cite all sources (MLA/APA)

INTRODUCTION

Intro/Hook the Audience:

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Inquiry Question: *(and thematic connection to 2 stimulus sources)*

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Context/Background: *(define key terms)*

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Argumentative Thesis:

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Stimulus Sources to Integrate:

Stimulus Source 1:	Stimulus Source 2:
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BODY PARAGRAPHS

Claim 1 (Reason 1):

Evidence/Source:	Evidence/Source:	Evidence/Source:	Evidence/Source:

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Commentary (analyze & explain evidence):

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Claim 2 (Reason 2):

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Evidence/Source:	Evidence/Source:	Evidence/Source:	Evidence/Source:
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Commentary (analyze & explain evidence):

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Claim 3 (Reason 3):

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Evidence/Source:	Evidence/Source:	Evidence/Source:	Evidence/Source:
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Commentary (analyze & explain evidence):

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⚠ Required for top scores! You must address objections or alternate views.

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PART 5: CONCLUSION

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Introducing Sources	Connecting Sources
<i>"[Source], who has been researching..., concludes that..."</i> <i>"As experts who have done [research] over [time], [names] believe..."</i>	<i>"To further support [Source A's] idea, [Source B] states..."</i> <i>"However, [Source B] disagrees, claiming that..."</i>
Presenting Multiple Perspectives	Adding Nuance
<i>"The [lens 1], [lens 2], and [lens 3] each have their own stake in [issue]."</i> <i>"Some experts agree that..."</i>	<i>"To a lesser extent..."</i> <i>"An additional consideration..."</i>

FINAL CHECKLIST

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Outline Option 4

IWA Research Paper Template

Paragraph-by-Paragraph Writing Guide

Name: _____

Period: _____

TASK REQUIREMENTS

- 2,000 words max
- Integrate 1+ stimulus source

- Include scholarly sources
- MLA/APA citations + Works Cited

PART 1: RESEARCH & PLANNING

INSTRUCTIONS	YOUR WORK
Inquiry Question <i>Connect to theme in 2 stimulus sources</i>	
Stimulus Sources <i>Which TWO will you use?</i>	1. 2.
Main Claims <i>Paraphrase main arguments</i>	Claim 1: Claim 2: Claim 3:
Counterclaim <i>Opposing view + your refutation</i>	
Solution/Resolution <i>Include limitations & implications</i>	

PART 2: INTRODUCTION

INSTRUCTIONS	YOUR WORK
BACKGROUND Set the stage. Based on experts, WHY should we care? Establish the SO WHAT? <i>⚠ No opinions or specific examples yet</i>	
THESIS (1-2 sentences) What conclusion did you reach? What's interesting, new, useful? ✓ Makes a clear statement ✓ Answers research question	

BODY PARAGRAPH STRUCTURE

Use this pattern for EACH body paragraph. Each paragraph = one claim.

TOPIC SENTENCE (1 sentence) — State your claim. Answer: SO WHAT?
SUPPORTING DETAIL #1 • INTRODUCE — Are you summarizing, paraphrasing, or quoting? • EVIDENCE — Give evidence that supports your claim • EXPLAIN — Why is this relevant? Why should we care? • CITE — In-text citation (MLA/APA)
SUPPORTING DETAIL #2 • INTRODUCE — Are you summarizing, paraphrasing, or quoting? • EVIDENCE — Give evidence that supports your claim • EXPLAIN — Why is this relevant? Why should we care? • CITE — In-text citation (MLA/APA)
CLOSING SENTENCE (1 sentence) — Summarize main point. Use transition to next paragraph.

BODY PARAGRAPH 1

TOPIC SENTENCE <i>State claim + SO WHAT</i>	
DETAIL #1 INTRODUCE EVIDENCE EXPLAIN CITE	
DETAIL #2 INTRODUCE EVIDENCE EXPLAIN CITE	
CLOSING <i>+ Transition</i>	

BODY PARAGRAPH 2

TOPIC SENTENCE	
DETAIL #1 <i>I-E-E-C</i>	
DETAIL #2 <i>I-E-E-C</i>	

CLOSING	

BODY PARAGRAPH 3

TOPIC SENTENCE	
DETAIL #1 <i>I-E-E-C</i>	
DETAIL #2 <i>I-E-E-C</i>	
CLOSING	

CONCLUSION

RESTATE <i>Conclusion/solution</i>	
SUMMARY <i>SO WHAT? Why best solution?</i>	
CLOSING <i>Final thought that resonates</i>	

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

ANALYSIS • Be specific & detailed • Give the SO WHAT • Connect each point to thesis	WRITING • Use transition words • Flow logically • Creative title (Capitalize!)	CITATIONS • In-text citations always • Works Cited page • MLA or APA format
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Transition Words: Furthermore • However • In contrast • Similarly • Therefore • As a result • For example • In addition • On the other hand • Consequently • Moreover • Nevertheless

FINAL STEPS

☐ Turn outline into proper essay ☐ Add title ☐ Check word count (2,000 max) ☐ Works Cited page ☐ Proofread

Outline Option 5

IWA Planner Organizer

Rubric-Aligned Argument Planning

Name: _____ Period: _____

Important: This is NOT an outline — it's a planning tool. All elements below are REQUIRED by the rubric, but you may organize your essay differently if it better suits your topic. The more detail you provide, the better feedback you'll receive.

INTRODUCTION

Address ROW 1 and ROW 2 of the rubric here. Elements from this section can also support ROW 4.

CONTEXT (ROW 2)	Why does your issue matter to your audience? Identify the problem. Discuss your RQ and what led you to this thinking.
CONNECTION TO STIMULUS (ROW 1)	Explicitly and clearly identify the thematic connection. Consider its relation to your context.
CLAIM/THESIS (ROW 4)	Focused, qualified, and defined. Provides direction for your essay. Advisable to address your solution/resolution here.
LINE OF REASONING (ROW 4)	What arguments must be true for your thesis to be plausible? These are your "reasons." Include your response to challenging perspectives.

BODY — ARGUMENT CHUNK 1

These are major "chunks" of your argument — likely bigger than single paragraphs. Repeat for additional chunks.

CLAIM (REASON) 1 (ROW 4)	One single, focused point that must be true for your argument to be plausible.
LOGIC/CONNECTION (ROW 4)	WHY are you making this claim at this point? How is it related to other claims? This exposes the logic behind your reasoning.
EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT (ROW 5)	Include source information. What credible, sophisticated information supports your reasoning?
HOW WILL YOU USE IT? (ROW 5)	Go BEYOND summary. How will you connect this evidence to your sub-claim AND main thesis? Analyze, evaluate, justify...

EVIDENCE THAT CHALLENGES (ROW 3)	<i>Counter-arguments... What do other voices have to say about THIS claim?</i>
HOW WILL YOU ADDRESS IT? (ROW 3, ROW 4)	<i>You don't always need to refute. You can: confirm, concede, qualify, adjust, re-challenge, re-define...</i>

SYNTHESIZE, don't summarize: analyze, evaluate, justify, declare, define, classify, divide, compare, contrast evidence and perspectives. Use "They Say/I Say" transitions to put sources in conversation.

BODY — ARGUMENT CHUNK 2

CLAIM (REASON) 2 (ROW 4)	
LOGIC/CONNECTION (ROW 4)	
EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT (ROW 5)	
HOW WILL YOU USE IT? (ROW 5)	
EVIDENCE THAT CHALLENGES (ROW 3)	
HOW WILL YOU ADDRESS IT? (ROW 3, ROW 4)	

 **Remember:** Use transitions to frame your argument and highlight your line of reasoning. Put sources into CONVERSATION with each other.

SOLUTION

Your research should lead to a plausible conclusion. You may present this in the body OR at the end — your choice.

PROPOSED SOLUTION OR RESOLUTION (ROW 4)	<i>What is the most reasonable way forward on the issue you've examined?</i>
PLAUSIBILITY (Limitations & Implications) (ROW 4, ROW 5)	<i>No solution is perfect. In what ways does yours fall short? Why is it STILL the best solution? Justify with evidence.</i>

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED (ROW 3)	<i>Who else has something to say? This ensures you analyze MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES.</i>
ASSESSMENT OF OTHER SOLUTIONS (ROW 3, ROW 4, ROW 5)	<i>Why do these fall short? What parts might you agree with? Examine limitations and implications of others' arguments.</i>

CONCLUSION

Go BEYOND summary. Re-contextualize your argument. Reiterate your conclusion. Invite the audience to participate.

CONCLUSION	<i>Re-examine the importance of finding a solution. Reiterate your conclusion. Invite audience participation.</i>
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RUBRIC REMINDERS

ROW 6: Maintain accurate, consistent citation format (MLA, APA, Chicago)	ROW 7: Grammar & style — maintain consistent academic, college-level discourse
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