

AROUND THE WORLD

Preliminary Outline and Purpose Statement

Purpose Statement:

One or more sentences that state what you plan to accomplish in your paper.

Identify a cultural issue with global relevance. This could be a problem that exists, a concern, a threat, etc. In these instances, it is important to address the cause(s) of the problem, the effect(s) of the problem, and a possible solution.

Example:

I will research and explain the problem of the increasing number of the children with autism in America and the current thinking on what has caused this increase. I will research and relate the effects of this increase on families, society, and governmental agencies and policies. After analyzing the research on the various theories of what causes autism, I will examine one or more possible solutions comparing pros and cons with the end result being a proposal for how to decrease the rate of autism in children.

Preliminary Outline:

An informal list of ideas to cover in your paper in the order that you plan to cover them.

The order of headings reflects the purpose statement.

This will transform into your formal outline as you add, delete, combine headings and subheadings as you finish your research.

- Step 1: Set up paper with correct heading.
- Step 2: Center title.
- Step 3: Use Roman numerals for the main topics. Subtopics are given capital letters. Then, Arabic numerals, then small letters, etc.
- Step 4: Indent subtopics. Indentations should be made so that all letters or numbers of the same kind will come directly under one another in a vertical line.
- Step 5: When subtopics are included in an outline, there must always be more than one subtopic. Because subtopics are divisions of the topic above them, you must have at least two parts when you subdivide.
- Step 6: A subtopic must be closely related to the topic under which it is placed.
- Step 7: Since topics and subtopics are not sentences, they should not be followed by periods.
- Step 8: Main topic and subtopic headings should be in parallel format such as all nouns or all participial phrases, etc.

An example is provided on the next page.

Your Name

Ms. McCain

English II

Date

Preliminary Outline and Purpose Statement

Purpose:

I will research and explain the issue of American involvement in the war in Afghanistan, to include what has caused the U.S. to get involved and why. I will also research and relate the effects of American involvement in the war on the American people, the Afghans, and on other countries in the Middle East and around the world. After researching what has prompted U.S. involvement, I will examine one or more possible solutions.

Outline:

- I. Define the War
 - A. American Foreign Policy
 - B. U.S. involvement
 1. Policies
 2. Agencies
- II. Causes for War
 - A. Background/Historical Factors
 - B. Terrorist Factors
 - C. NATO Factors
- III. Effects of US Involvement
 - A. On American Families

B. On American Society

C. On American Government

D. Global Effects

IV. Possible Solutions

A. Policy Solutions

B. Military Solutions

V. Proposal for Change