

FORMAL OUTLINE

Thesis statement (main idea)

- I. First main topic
 - A. First subordinate idea
 - 1. First supporting idea
 - 2. Second supporting idea
 - 3. Third supporting idea
 - B. Second subordinate idea
 - 1. First supporting idea
 - 2. Second supporting idea
- II. Second main topic
 - A. First subordinate idea
 - 1. First supporting idea
 - 2. Second supporting idea
 - B. Second subordinate idea
 - 1. First supporting idea
 - 2. Second supporting idea
 - a. First supporting detail
 - b. Second supporting detail

Each level contains at least two parts, so there is no A without a B, no 1 without a 2.