

Creating outlines for long essays is done in much the same ways as for short essays; the difference lies not in the number of points, but rather in the depth of each point. When writing long papers, think of each section as a small essay on its own. This will suggest what sub-points should be included to best support the thesis of each section. The process can be repeated indefinitely until the desired length or level of detail is achieved.

## Breakdown

- **The Five-Paragraph Essay**
  - A basic, five-paragraph essay format is an excellent place to begin an outline, even for a long essay.
  - Imagine a long paper scaled down to the level of an introduction, three body paragraphs, and a conclusion.
  - For this illustration, these body paragraphs are called “Level One”
  
- **The First Level**
  - After determining the overall arrangement of the essay, focus on the first topic “paragraph.”
  - Imagine that this section will be its own independent essay.
  - Consider how it will be introduced, what the thesis of this section will be, and what mapping scheme would be appropriate.
  - Develop an outline of this sub-essay in the same way as the overview.
  - Think of these body sections as “Level Two.” Continue this process with each of the three body sections.
  
- **The Next Level**
  - Once each body section has been given a full essay outline, repeat the process for each of them, this time focusing on the “Level Two” body paragraphs.
  - This process can be repeated, with each level adding depth and length to the overall essay.
  
- **The Final Level**
  - At the bottom of this exercise are the individual paragraphs.
  - Like the levels above them, each paragraph will include:
    - A self-contained claim supported with evidence
    - An explanation of the evidence
    - A brief conclusion