MLA Outline

Your outline is created to organize your ideas. You will develop a working outline that you will edit and modify while you write. When you submit your folder with your final paper, you will submit your final outline. Your outline will adhere to the following guidelines:

- Margins are set to one inch
- Last name and page number appear in top right hand corner, ½ " from top
  For the outline, use lowercase letters (example: Tobin ii, Tobin iii, etc.)
- Begin your outline with your thesis statement
- Each paragraph begins with a new Roman Numeral (I, II, III, etc.) and states your paragraph’s main idea
- Supporting details are listed in order below the main idea, indicated with a capital letter
- Write in complete sentences
- You are to have a introduction paragraph, three supporting paragraphs, and a conclusion.
- Please see the below sample of an outline
Outline

Thesis: Unless the risks of cell phones are shown to outweigh the benefits, we should not restrict their use in moving vehicles; instead, we should educate the public about the dangers of driving while phoning and prosecute irresponsible phone users under laws of negligent and reckless driving.

I. Main sentence of introduction (should explain your thesis)
   A. Provide reasons for your argument - these can explain the evidence you will be providing in your following paragraphs
   B. 
   C. 

II. Scientific studies have not proved a link between the use of cell phones and traffic accidents.
   A. One study by Redelmeler and Tibshirani was not conclusive, as the researchers themselves have admitted.
   B. Most states do not keep records on accidents caused by driver distractions.
   C. In a survey of research on cell phones and driving, Cain and Burris report that results so far have been inconclusive.

III. The risks of using cell phones while driving should be weighed against the benefits.
   A. At the Harvard Center for Risk Analysis, researchers found that the risks of driving while phoning were small compared with other driving risks.
   B. There are safety, business and personal benefits to using cell phones while on the road.

IV. We need to educate drivers on using cell phones responsibly and enforce laws on negligent and reckless driving.
   A. Educating drivers can work.
   B. It is possible to enforce laws against negligent and reckless driving; in states that do not do an adequate job of enforcement, the public can lobby for improvement.

V. Conclusion paragraph should restate your thesis and concisely restate your evidence.
   Leave the reader with a strong impression of your key message.
   A. 
   B. 
Adapted from

This outline sample does not necessarily indicate the opinion of the teacher or school.