

Conceptual Outline Template

This conceptual outline template is intended to help you to a) construct an argument that is supported by evidence, b) to construct an argument that is derived from an analysis of the evidence—as opposed to an argument imposed upon their evidence, and c) to use evidence to effectively support their argument.

Argument/thesis: In this space you should detail at least one potential argument for your final paper. Consider your evidence. Does the evidence you've collected support your argument? Or, does your argument make a bigger claim than the evidence suggests? Feel free to include more than one potential argument.

Evidence/data (1-3): In this space you should detail ONE piece of data/evidence that supports your argument. This should be a direct quote, a description of an observation you made, or something else specific. This should not be a general statement (i.e. interview with interlocutor). Nor should it be your analysis of the data. Your analysis should be included in response to the questions below.

What is the significance of this evidence? For each of the three pieces of evidence/data provided, you should use this space to analyze their significance. In short, answer this question for each piece of evidence/data provided.

How does this evidence support your argument? For each of the three pieces of evidence/data provided, you should use this space to be explicit about how this evidence/data and your analysis of it supports the argument you plan to make.

Argument/thesis: _____

Evidence/data 1: _____

What is the significance of this evidence?

How does this evidence support your argument?

Evidence/data 2: _____

What is the significance of this evidence?

How does this evidence support your argument?

Evidence/data 3: _____

What is the significance of this evidence?

How does this evidence support your argument?