

Sample Outline for a Research Paper on the College Application Process

I. Introduction

- A. General Background
- B. Thesis: Applying to college involves choosing the appropriate schools, preparing the applications, and compiling a resume.

II. Choose Desired Colleges

- A. Visit and evaluate college campuses
- B. Visit and evaluate college websites
 - 1. look for interesting classes
 - 2. note important statistics
 - a. student/faculty ratio
 - b. retention rate

III. Prepare Application

- A. Write Personal Statement
 - 1. Choose interesting topic
 - a. Describe an influential person in your life
 - i. favorite high school teacher
 - ii. grandparent
 - 2. Include important personal details
 - a. volunteer work
 - b. participation in varsity sports
- B. Revise personal statement

IV. Compile resume

- A. List relevant coursework
- B. List work experience
- C. List volunteer experience
 - 1. tutor at foreign language summer camp
 - 2. counselor for suicide prevention hotline

V. Conclusion

(modified from the sample outline at Purdue University Online Writing Lab:
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/544/03/>)