


2.6 — The Multiple Paragraph Outline

Goals 29–37

The Multiple Paragraph Outline (MPO) works for students who are ready to begin writing unified, coherent compositions of three or more paragraphs (see **Templates J, K, and L** in the appendix). By using the MPO, students learn to construct a composition that includes an introduction, body, and conclusion. The outline guides them through this process, helping them maintain a consistent topic, purpose, and point of view by providing a clear diagram of the entire work.

Here are two examples of Multiple Paragraph Outlines:

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Template K

Multiple Paragraph Outline (4 Paragraphs)


Name: _____ Date: _____

Topic: Extending the school year

Thesis Statement: There are arguments for and against extending the school year.

Main Idea	Details
¶ 1 Introduction	<i>Gen. St. proposed ed. reform. Sp. St. many nations → year round schooling. Th. St.</i>
¶ 2 Pro ↓ T.S.	<i>U.S. literacy declining. better ed. w/ fewer interruptions close achievement gap faster more vacations throughout year compete w/ other nations advance → technology & science raise standards.</i>
¶ 3 Con ↓ T.S.	<i>\$ → tax payers / teachers salaries \$ → keep schools open students need break family vacations time needed for planning summer businesses</i>
¶ 4 Conclusion	<i>Rephrase Th. St. Sp. St. economic concerns dominate Gen. St. further discussion needed</i>

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Template L

Multiple Paragraph Outline (5 Paragraphs)

Name: _____ Date: _____

Topic: Theodore Roosevelt

Thesis Statement: TR's leadership influenced the presidency at home and abroad during the 20th century.

Main Idea	Details
¶ 1 Introduction	<i>Gen. St. powerful / exciting. Sp. St. 26th pres. / youngest (42) Th. St.</i>
¶ 2 Early Life ↓ I.S.	<i>DOB 10/27/1858 NYC asthma Harvard Columbia Law School Marriages / Children</i>
¶ 3 Political Career ↓ I.S.	<i>N.Y. Legislature 1881 N.Y. Police Comm. 1894 Asst. Secty. Navy 1896 "Rough Riders" 1898 V.P. → Pres. 1901</i>
¶ 4 legacy ↓ domestic foreign I.S.	<i>Antitrust laws environmental / conservation Panama Canal Roosevelt Corollary → World Power Nobel Prize 1906 / death 1919</i>
¶ 5 Conclusion	<i>Rephrase I.S. St. Sp. St. crusader challenger Gen. St. role model → 20th cent. pres.</i>

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