

CHRISTMAS  
AROUND  
THE WORLD  
ESSAY WRITING



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

A good way to organize information is by using an outline. Outlines are useful for helping to lay out information in such a way as to use it to write an essay. The outline could be considered to be the skeleton of an essay paper – the bones that support what you want to say.

If you were to write a five paragraph essay about a country discussed in the reading selection, the outline for it might look like the following:

I. Introduction

- A. Main Idea (Thesis)
- B. Categories
- C. Hook

II. Customs Description

- A. Topic Sentence
- B. Details
  - 1. Detail 1
  - 2. Detail 2
  - 3. Detail 3

C. Concluding Sentence

III. Similarities

- A. Topic Sentence
- B. Details
  - 1. Detail 1
  - 2. Detail 2
  - 3. Detail 3

C. Concluding Sentence

IV. Differences

- A. Topic Sentence
- B. Details
  - 1. Detail 1
  - 2. Detail 2
  - 3. Detail 3

C. Concluding Sentence

V. Conclusion

- A. Summarizing Statement
- B. Opinion
- C. Restate Thesis

The Roman numerals (I, II, III, IV, V) each represent a paragraph. How many paragraphs does this outline show? \_\_\_\_\_

The information indented below each Roman numeral shows the content of the paragraph, and each lettered or numbered item represents a sentence in that paragraph. Tell how many specific sentences are indicated by the outline for each paragraph.

Introductory paragraph: \_\_\_\_\_

Description paragraph: \_\_\_\_\_

Similarities paragraph: \_\_\_\_\_

Differences paragraph: \_\_\_\_\_

Concluding paragraph: \_\_\_\_\_

Remember that the outline is only the skeleton of the final paper. So as you're actually writing each paragraph, you can add more sentences (the muscle and flesh of the essay) than are specifically indicated by the outline, *as long as you stick to the topic of the paragraph*. Any extra sentences should only give more detail or explanation of what is already in the paragraph, not include or introduce something outside of the paragraph's topic.

Now, let's create an outline using information from the reading material. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate information. Look back at your previous answers, and the selection itself, to write in the correct information.

Remember, each Roman numeral indicates a paragraph, so everything under that numeral should be related to the topic of that paragraph.

I. Introduction      This is the opening paragraph of your essay. It will introduce the reader to the subject about which you are writing, and cause the reader to want to read the rest of your paper.

A. Main Idea (Thesis) Write a sentence that sums up the main idea of the paper – a different country's Christmas traditions.

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B. Body      Write one sentence that states that you are going to describe a country's Christmas traditions, and that you are going to tell how they are similar to and different from those of the United States.

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C. Hook      Write a sentence that will capture a reader's attention and cause them to want to read the rest of the paper. It should be interesting, and make the reader want to continue reading.

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## II. Customs Description

- A. Topic Sentence            Write a sentence to introduce this paragraph. Include in it the country that you will be writing about, and a statement that you will be discussing its Christmas traditions. Remember, this is what the whole paragraph will be about.

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- B. Details                    You will now write three sentences, each of which should include and describe an important Christmas tradition of the country identified for this essay.

1. Detail 1

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2. Detail 2

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3. Detail 3

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- C. Concluding Sentence    Write a sentence that wraps up the whole paragraph. Restate or refer back to the topic sentence. Remember – do NOT simply rewrite the topic sentence. Your concluding sentence should bring this paragraph to a close.

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III. Similarities

A. Topic Sentence Write a sentence to introduce this paragraph. Include in it the country that you will be writing about, and a statement that you will be discussing which of its Christmas traditions are similar to those of the United States. Remember, this is what the whole paragraph will be about.

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B. Details You will now write three sentences, each of which should include and describe a tradition that both the country you chose and the United States do.

1. Detail 1

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2. Detail 2

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3. Detail 3

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C. Concluding Sentence Write a sentence that wraps up the whole paragraph. Restate or refer back to the topic sentence. Remember – do NOT simply rewrite the topic sentence. Your concluding sentence should bring this paragraph to a close.

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IV. Differences

A. Topic Sentence Write a sentence to introduce this paragraph. Include in it the country that you will be writing about, and a statement that you will be discussing unique Christmas traditions that are different from those of the United States. Remember, this is what the whole paragraph will be about.

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A. Details You will now write three sentences, each of which should include and describe a unique Christmas tradition of this country that the United States does not do.

1. Detail 1

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2. Detail 2

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3. Detail 3

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B. Concluding Sentence Write a sentence that wraps up the whole paragraph. Restate or refer back to the topic sentence. Remember – do NOT simply rewrite the topic sentence. Your concluding sentence should bring this paragraph to a close.

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V. Conclusion This is the paragraph that will bring your essay to a close, and wrap up your whole paper.

A. Summarizing Statement Write a sentence that summarizes the entire essay.

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B. Opinion You will now write three sentences about your opinion of the country you wrote about.

1. Sentence 1 : Give your opinion of the country and its traditions.

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2. Sentence 2: Give a reason for your opinion of the country and its traditions.

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3. Sentence 3: Give a second reason for your opinion of the country and its traditions.

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C. Restate Thesis Look back at the thesis statement you wrote at the beginning. You are going to conclude the entire essay by reminding readers of the main idea about which you wrote. Restate your thesis statement to do this.

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As you can see, once you've completed a thorough outline, you pretty much have the rough draft of your entire paper written. You have all of the main ideas, you have supporting details, and you have the information organized logically and in a way that you can use.











