

Anatomy of an Outline

1. Create a Thesis Statement.

Sample Paper Outline:

Thesis statement: *Because globalization is an undeniable reality in today's world, a well-rounded Canadian education must include opportunities for students to study one or more languages.*

2. Identify main points that relate to your thesis statement.

3. Identify the supporting points and evidence for each major idea.

1. Bilingualism is the norm for most of the world's people. Those who are not bilingual are easily left behind.
 1. Statistics on bilingualism in the world.
 2. Contrast between levels of bilingualism in Europe, Asia, and North America.
 3. Disadvantages created by low levels of bilingualism in Canada.
2. Strong language education is a global norm, and Canada's weakness in this area should be remedied.
 1. Information on language education in schools in select European, Asian, and North American countries.
 1. Percentage of students in Europe, China, and India that become bilingual through their education.
 2. Low levels of second language study in Canadian schools.
 2. Ways in which norms and expectations in language teaching contribute to successful bilingualism.
 1. Strong teaching methods lead to success in global contexts.
 2. Because Canadian teachers and students do not expect to become bilingual, low expectations lead to the continued use of outdated teaching methods.
3. Bilingualism is necessary for participation in a global economy.
 1. Percentage of economic trade that is dependent on trade between one or more countries.
 2. Role of bilingualism in multinational companies.
 1. Job opportunities provided by bilingualism.
 2. Why relying on English as a trade language is not sufficient for success in international business.
 3. The lack of second language education in Canadian secondary and post-secondary schools places Canadian students at a disadvantage in a global economy.
4. Bilingualism creates social good, and therefore the education system should actively work to promote it.
 1. Bilingualism allows people to understand cultures besides their own.
 1. Problems related to a lack of understanding between people.
 2. Research on how bilingualism allows people to understand one another.
 3. Role of language study in creating empathy.
 2. Education systems must work towards the common good of a peaceful society.
 1. Schools should promote cultural understanding through language study.
 2. Schools that do not promote bilingualism fail to provide their students with important cross-cultural communication skills.