

Asg-03: Term Paper OUTLINE (Web)

Date assigned: Thursday, 5 July

Date due: Best: Monday, 16 July, 6PM

Objectives: To ensure that your term paper will be well organized and include all of the essential components for a position paper. To ensure that you keep your thesis in mind as you decide what arguments, evidence, refutes, risks, etc. you will include in those components.

How to proceed

First, read carefully the section on Outlining in the *MLA Handbook*.

Outlines can be organized in various ways, just as there are many ways in which to organize a position paper. You will find a **partial sample outline** below; its organization was based on the suggested methodology for writing your papers that was provided in *Misc-02—Writing Assignment Guideline*.

You certainly do not have to follow our model, shown below, in its precise order—for example, you may wish to address a risk or tradeoff immediately following an argument for your stance. Or, you may wish to present your counterarguments to the opposing point of view *before* you present your arguments for your position. Just make sure your outline includes all the important elements, and that it is well organized.

The Internet should not become a tax shelter

1) Introduction and statement of thesis

- a) Introduce the controversy
 - i) Introduce reader to the controversy regarding taxation: should Internet sales be taxed, or should state and local taxes be waived for at least another three years, thus extending the current moratorium and providing the fledgling e-commerce business with an edge?
 - ii) Should the federal government interfere with local and state government rights to collect taxes? Is it fair for the federal government to provide e-corporations with a tax advantage over their brick-and-mortar counterparts? Shouldn't they be good citizens as well? Why should a shopping medium make a difference here?
- b) Statement of thesis [critical!]
 - i) It will be argued that the federal government should not extend the tax moratorium for an additional three years beyond 2001. E-commerce will have already had more than three years to get itself well established, and an extended moratorium would result in unfair competition funded at the expense of local and state governments.

2) Analysis and explanation of thesis; and some background

- a) Analysis and explanation
 - i) Describe e-commerce.
 - ii) Provide descriptions for e-corporations and for brick-and-mortar institutions.

- iii) Describe what is meant by a tax moratorium.
- b) Brief background
 - i) Provide a few paragraphs describing the current moratorium, and some specific reasons which justified its initial adoption. Provide supporting evidence.

3) MAIN BODY: List of arguments to support thesis; counter opponent's arguments

- a) Supporting arguments
 - i) State and local coffers are suffering from the lack of tax revenue from on-line sales.
 - ii) Government intervention may curtail economic expansion if brick-and-mortar enterprises are shut out of competition.
 - iii) Tax breaks give e-businesses an unfair advantage over brick-and-mortar companies.
 - iv) E-commerce is already the fastest growing part of the economy. On-line sales are projected to rise to XXX by 2003, which is XX percent of total sales; therefore, no advantage is required.
 - v) E-commerce retailers should be good citizens.
 - vi) etc. etc. etc.
- b) Counter the opponent's main arguments that support his/her side
 - i) Taxing new e-companies will lead to e-rosion.
 - ii) Yadda yadda yadda ...
 - iii) Blah blah blah
 - iv) Etc. etc. etc.

4) Examine objections to my thesis and its arguments, and respond. Identify risks.

- a) Respond to opponent's counterargument regarding good citizenship.
- b) Respond to opponent's counterargument regarding
- c) etc. etc.
- d) Identify risk #1 of position: BLAH BLAH. Show how to reduce BLAH BLAH by Yadda Yadda Yadda.
- e) Identify tradeoff YADA YADA; conclude that no taxation for another three years is worth the cost (segway to conclusion).

5) Conclusion

- a) Brief summary of most important points: X, Y, and Z.
- b) Restatement of thesis as logical conclusion.
- c) An interesting twist about yadda yadda, for the reader to think about.

3 July 2001