



DALLAS BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

Preliminary Outline

A preliminary outline

- is a rough list of the major ideas that will develop into a preliminary thesis statement.
- will help one determine the order of note taking; that is, as one takes notes from different sources, s/he can put titles from the outline beside each note. Later, s/he can group the notes from different sources according to their titles developed from the outline.
- is also subject to change as one finds more information from sources.
- helps one find and record information that is important and to omit the information that looks appealing but is irrelevant to the paper.

Steps for Formulating a Preliminary Outline:

- Make a rough list of the ideas that will help in the process of developing a preliminary thesis statement.
- Write down the main ideas for the outline.
- Under each main idea, record the minor elements and ideas that will develop the main idea.