Essay Outlining

Before writing an essay, it is always a good idea to outline what you want to say in the essay. This allows you to write your paper in an organized way, and the paper's transition will be a lot smoother.

There are usually four main parts to an essay: **Introduction, Body, Thesis, and Conclusion**. It is always good to organize these parts before actually writing your paper.

**Thesis:** The thesis statement is a sentence or two in which your entire paper is focused around. The thesis statement summarizes exactly what the paper is going to reveal. It usually comes at the end of the Introduction.

(A good way to write a thesis statement is to write, "This paper shows that... and then finish the sentence.)

**Introduction.** The introduction introduces the thesis statement and also introduces the main topic to the reading audience.

**Body:** The body or the paper consists of all of the **supporting points** of the thesis statement.

**Conclusion:** At the end of the essay, the conclusion concludes all of the supporting points of which the Body has stated. It usually starts with restating the thesis statement.

Thus, an outline can be as follows:

I. **Introduction**
   a. Introduce the topic (usually 1-2 paragraphs, but can be more)
   b. Thesis Statement (usually 1-2 sentences)

II. **Body**
   a. First Main Point
      i. Supporting material
      ii. Supporting material
      iii. Etc...
   b. Second Main Point
      i. Supporting material
      ii. Supporting material
   III. And so on...

   c. And so on...

III. **Conclusion**
   a. Restate the Thesis Statement
   b. Conclude idea of the essay and thesis statement