**Basic Research Paper Outline Template**  
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1. **Introduction**
   1. Hook
   2. Research Question
   3. Thesis Statement
2. **Body Paragraphs\***
   1. Context and History of Research Topic
   2. Existing Arguments
      1. First argument
         1. citation
         2. citation
      2. Second argument
         1. citation
         2. citation
      3. etc.
   3. Your Argument
      1. First argument
         1. citation
         2. citation
      2. Second argument
         1. citation
         2. citation
         3. etc.
3. **Conclusion**
   1. Summary of main points
      1. Point 1
      2. Point 2
      3. etc.
   2. Answer: why does this research matter?

\*Note there is no set number of body paragraphs in a research paper. Just make sure to clearly connect your ideas from one to the next using transitions.