**Research Paper Outline Example**

The following example is for a five-paragraph compare and contrast essay on driving vs using public transportation. It uses the full sentence structure. Research could investigate the specific costs of each type of transportation, their environmental impact, and the value of convenience.

I. Introduction

A. Many people use both private and public transportation.

B. Most large cities have busses, subways, and elevated trains that travel within walking distance of many city centers.

C. There are millions of cars on the road, attesting to their popularity.

D. This paper will examine the similarities and differences between public and private transportation.

II. Body paragraph one (similarities)

A. There are several similarities between public and private automobile transportation.

B. Both have direct and indirect costs.

C. Both get you where you need to be.

D. Both mostly burn fossil fuels.

III. Body paragraph two (differences)

A. There are several differences between public and private automobile transportation.

B. The daily costs of maintaining an automobile are higher.

C. The net environmental impact of using public transportation is less, therefore it is better for the environment.

D. Public transportation requires adhering to the public transportation schedule.

E. Private transportation is more convenient, allowing for greater freedom.

IV. Summary of findings

A. While public transportation does have advantages, driving is superior.

B. Driving allows for greater freedom.

C. Driving is more convenient

D. Driving accommodates those with special physical needs

E. Driving saves time

V. Conclusions

A. This paper examined the similarities and differences between using private and public transportation.

B. Advantages of public transportation include cost and environmental considerations.

C. Advantages of private transportation include convenience, speed, time savings.

1. Ways to overcome the advantages of public transportation:

a. Reduce environmental impact by buying an electric car, carpooling, or ride-sharing.

b. Reduce the cost of driving by ride-sharing, buying a reliable used car, driving infrequently.

D. In conclusion, both types of transportation have their respective advantages and disadvantages; for reasons outlined above, however, I believe driving is preferable to public transportation.