QUESTIONS TO ASK ABOUT YOUR OUTLINE

- Does the “working title” indicate the topic and focus of the research paper? How might it be improved?

- Does the outline give a clear sense of the organization of the paper, what will be covered?

- Is there an attention getter AND/OR lead in statement? Does the attention getter draw you into the paper?

- Do you provide background information (facts, issues, definitions etc.)? What will the reader learn?

- Is the thesis narrow and specific enough to be addressed in the paper length?

- Is the thesis arguable, have you chosen clear stance on an issue i.e. choose a side?

- Does the thesis establish the method or organization, i.e. what will be discussed in the paper to support and expand the thesis?

- Are there at least 2 to 3 topic sentences that expand/support the thesis?

- Are there support/evidence sentences, phrases and bullet points noted on the outline that support each topic sentence, showing how each paragraph/section will be developed?

- What types of evidence are used in each section to support topic sentence and prove the overall argument of the paper and support the claims that are made?

- What are the sources of evidence and in what form are they engaged (quotation, summary or paraphrase)?

- Are the ideas in the paper logically interrelated, easy to understand, and do they flow well from one to the next?

- What type of lead-out is used in the conclusion, e.g. echo the introduction?

- Are the main points from the paper summarized in the conclusion?

- Does the closing statement leave the reader with a sense of closure, call to action, encourage additional research etc?