Outline and partial first draft (introduction and conclusion) of final research paper

ENG 210-27

4/8/21

**Due Tuesday April 20—extra credit.**

This outline is designed to provide you a working document from which to begin writing the first draft of your actual research essay. By the time you finish the outline, you should be substantially finished with your research (or, at the very least, know what sort of research you still need) and have a good grasp of the sequence of paragraphs for this paper. Think of this assignment as a map for the argument you are going to make and an opportunity to organize the evidence that you will be using.

Requirements for the outline:

* A working title
* For the introduction, consider adding later something to draw the general reader in: a striking fact, a quotation or an anecdote.
* outline points organized by paragraph; draft topic sentences should be included in the outline (see Cleveland Indians example below or handout)
* thesis/claim should presented in the first page or so
* include evidence (quotation and/or paraphrase) where relevant—this won’t be all of the points
* where possible, include in-text citations—for the outline they can just be names (e.g. Schneider; see Cleveland Indians example below)
* draft the concluding paragraph; which should state your point(s) more fully than does the introduction; it should also include the answers to the “So what?” question—why this matters and perhaps steps for future researchers to follow. You have done this and the intro before with your first bibliography.

For the outlining process, use the handout from *Writing That Works* (see sample on p. 29). Below is another sample outline. Note how it anticipates and acknowledges counterarguments (some call this *concession*—conceding that there is an opposing viewpoint) in the final section and then responds to them. This is part of the ethics of proper rhetorical writing—you imagine and respect your audiences and involve them in a conversation, not a one-sided polemic.

Would you agree with this position (the [Cleveland Indians](http://cleveland.indians.mlb.com/index.jsp?c_id=cle&sv=1) baseball team should change their name and get a new logo; note that this eventually did occur in large part)? Are there other counterarguments this researcher has left out?

Sample Outline: “Need a Cure for Tribe Fever? How About a Dip in the Lake?”

1. Introduction to Indians’ logo
   1. The Indians’ logo, Chief Wahoo, has become very well known
      1. People wear Indians gear across the country
         1. Indians merchandise ranked 2nd in sales among MLB teams (Adams)
         2. Many youth baseball teams also use Indians jerseys and hats (“MLBP”)
      2. The mascot, described by Rick Telander as a “red-faced, big-nosed, drywall-toothed moron” (qtd. In Eitzen), has been around since the 1940s
      3. People tend to see it as a cheerful, benign image like other teams’ logos and mascots.
   2. The logo was initially intended to be temporary
      1. Previous names: Forest Citys, Spiders, Bluebirds/Blues, Broncos, Naps
      2. The “temporary” name was chosen in 1915
         1. Had been named after their star player, Nap Lajoie, until 1915, when Lajoie was traded
         2. According to publicity material, sportswriters chose the new name “Indians” to honor a former player: Louis Sockalexis (Schneider)
            1. A Penobscot Indian
            2. Played for Cleveland 1897-1899
            3. High batting average
            4. First Native American professional baseball player (Schneider)
            5. However, some dispute this theory and say there is little evidence that the name was chosen in honor of Sockalexis (Staurowsky)
         3. “Temporary” name still around almost 90 years later, and it’s raising questions about its appropriateness
2. Problems with the logo
   1. Native American mascots have become socially unacceptable across the United States
      1. Objections have been raised since the Native American movement of the 1970s
      2. Teams like Indians are criticized on two fronts:
         1. Objections to grossly stereotyped logos
         2. Objections to what displays of team support say about Native American culture
            1. Faux Native American rituals at professional and amateur sporting events
            2. Quotation from Tim Giago, publisher of *Lakota Times*: “The sham rituals, such as the wearing of feathers, smoking of so-called peace pipes, beating of tomtoms, fake dances, horrendous attempts at singing Indian songs, the so-called war whoops, and the painted faces, address more than the issues of racism. They are direct attacks upon the spirituality of the Indian people” (qtd. In Wulf).
   2. Many other teams have gotten rid of their Native American mascots
   3. Chief Wahoo has created controversy in Cleveland, dividing various groups of people in the city
   4. Civic leaders in Cleveland have decried Wahoo
   5. But Cleveland is resisting national trends to change logos and thus appears backward and insensitive.
3. Proposal to change the team’s name
   1. Proposal: the team should change its name to the Cleveland Lakers because doing so will improve the city of Cleveland’s image
   2. The name would reinforce Cleveland’s positive association with its lakefront location
   3. Acknowledgement and response: freedom of choice
      1. Counterargument: The team shouldn’t just bow to pressure from special interests
      2. Response: This is not giving in to others’ demands, but rather it’s about the benefits of civic unity
   4. The change of name would bring added economic prosperity to the city
   5. Acknowledgement and responses: complications of renaming team
      1. Counterargument: There’s already a professional sports team called the Lakers
      2. Response:
         1. Other names are shared by teams in different sports (e.g., San Francisco and New York Giants)
         2. If the Los Angeles Lakers have a problem with the change, they can change their own name to something more appropriate to the city of L.A.
4. Conclusion: This is the perfect time to make this change

The final paper in the course will be your research paper. You are writing about the same topic that you have been researching, and making a **claim** about that topic and supporting it with relevant **evidence** from current, reliable **sources**. Making a claim means that you are making an argument of your own. By making an argument, you should avoid turning your paper into what Holdstein and Aquiline call “patchwriting”—an essay that just includes a lot of loosely connected information gathered from your research. Instead, organize your focused information around a central claim (or, thesis). Also, work to bring your own voice to the foreground through writing that introduces, explains, analyzes and draws connections among the evidence that you present.

Your essay will be most successful if you follow the basic advice from *Who Says?*

* Make a claim
* support it with reasons and evidence
* acknowledge alternatives to your claim and respond to them
* explain any warrants (assumptions) that your reader might not share.
* And, while composing your essay, follow the advice on organizing, drafting, and revising found in Chapters 8 and 10.