

## Sample Argumentative Multi-Paragraph Outline

**Prompt:** Write an argumentative essay in which you take a clear position on this question: Is *The Outsiders* still relevant and important for middle school students today? Argue for or against keeping it in the curriculum and support your position with evidence from the novel.

Claim: <i>The Outsiders</i> should remain in the middle school curriculum because it explores timeless coming-of-age experiences and encourages empathy by challenging stereotypes about social class.	
Reason 1: Encourages empathy and discussion of stereotypes	<p>Topic Sentence: <u>The novel is still relevant for modern readers because it encourages empathy by challenging stereotypes about social class.</u></p> <hr/> <p>Supporting Details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Cherry challenges Ponyboy's assumptions about the Socs' lives: "Things are rough all over." (p. 35)</li><li>● Ponyboy gains empathy for Cherry: "We saw the same sunset." (p. 41)</li><li>● Randy visits Ponyboy and explains he is tired of fighting and violence (p. 163)</li></ul>
Reason 2: Timeless coming-of-age experiences	<p>Topic Sentence: <u>Another reason the novel should remain in the curriculum is that it explores timeless coming-of-age experiences, such as the search for identity and a sense of belonging.</u></p> <hr/> <p>Supporting Details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Ponyboy struggles with his identity as a greaser because of stereotypes (p. 2)</li><li>● At the church, Ponyboy and Johnny bond over their dreams and feel understood (p. 78)</li><li>● After the church fire, Ponyboy understands Darry's love for him and feels a sense of belonging within his family (p. 98)</li></ul>