Definition Essay Outline Template

1. Introduction
2. Dictionary definition
3. Background information/society’s definition
4. Thesis (your definition)

II. 1st Body Paragraph

1. Topic sentence (1st part of your definition/thesis statement)
2. Textual evidence/example (cite source)
3. Commentary connecting evidence or example to thesis
4. Textual evidence/example (cite source)
5. Commentary connecting evidence or example to thesis
6. Textual evidence/example - OPTIONAL (cite source)
7. Commentary connecting evidence or example to thesis - OPTIONAL
8. Conclusion sentence

III. 2nd Body Paragraph (repeat)

IV. 3rd Body Paragraph (repeat)

V. Conclusion Paragraph

1. Rewrite/reword thesis, topic sentences, and main points
2. Personal connection
3. Lesson learned or future statement or call to action