*If you use this outline as a template, save as your topic name and outline—“ghosts outline” then write over each line.*

Outline for Ebola

1. Introduction and Thesis
   1. Attention-grabber: vignette about NYC doctor feverish with Ebola, traveling through NYC.
   2. Thesis: The contagious nature of Ebola should be respected by everyone despite cultural habits and traditions.
   3. Points of the essay
      1. What is Ebola and how is it transmitted?
      2. West African culture contributes to spread of the disease
      3. American culture contributes to the spread of the disease
      4. Solutions
2. Body
   1. What is Ebola and how is it transmitted?
   2. West African outbreak
      1. Facts of the outbreak
      2. West African death and burial customs
      3. West African treatment of illness
   3. American outbreak
      1. Facts of the outbreak
      2. American customs—freedom of movement
      3. American values—trust in authority has eroded
      4. American values—distrust of the media
   4. Solutions to the mismatch between culture and treatment.
3. The Conclusion
   1. Tell the end of the NYC doctor story
   2. Summarize the key points of the essay
   3. Call to action or a quote about epidemics

so . . .

The basic outline is the essay in skeleton form. Some writers make another copy of the outline, save as “Draft” and write the paragraphs right into the outline including the text support from research.

Ex.

I. Introduction and Thesis

a. Attention-grabber: When Harry Franklin returned from Cote’d Ivoire for holidays with his family, he had no idea that he was bringing his family the dubious gift of Ebola. He remembers feeling feverish while waiting to board the plane to New York, but he didn’t think anything of it. “Everybody thinks they are invincible,” he said from his bed in quarantine. He remembers coughing in the taxi after he left LaGuardia Airport, seeing blood on his handkerchief, and the suspicious look on the cabbie’s face. The driver dropped Franklin at his home on the Upper East side and drove away without the fare. (Bestgate).

b. Thesis: The contagious nature of Ebola should be respected by everyone despite cultural habits

and traditions.

c. Outline of the essay

1. What is Ebola and how is it transmitted?

2. West African culture contributes to spread of the disease

a. Death and burial customs

b. Traditional treatment of illness

4. American culture contributes to the spread of the disease

a. Freedom of movement

b. Failure of trust

6. Solutions