**Teaching the Lone Star State Research Essay Outline**

*\*\*\*Your structure might look different depending on your topic.\*\*\**

1. Introduction
   1. One paragraph
   2. Provide any background knowledge needed to understand your topic
   3. Grab the reader’s attention by giving an overview of your topic and its importance
   4. Conclude the introduction with a main idea sentence
2. Body paragraphs
   1. At least three paragraphs – more if needed depending on your topic
   2. Explain the concepts related to your topic
   3. Make connections to Texas
   4. Each body paragraph should have a theme – organize your concepts by similarities
   5. Each body paragraph should have a main idea sentence at the beginning and a concluding sentence at the end
3. Conclusion
   1. One paragraph
   2. Revisit the main idea by briefly summarizing your topic
   3. Explain the “big picture”
      1. For historical topics – Discuss the lasting results (on the state, national, and/or global level) of your topic
      2. For current topics – Offer an opinion about your topic

**Formatting:**

* Minimum of **two** pages typed (maximum of **three** pages)
  + Double spaced, 12 pt. standard font, margins set at 1 inch all around
* You will need a bibliography (“Works Cited”) page in **MLA format**
  + Minimum of 7 sources (not including Wikipedia)
  + Should be the last page of your essay (does NOT count toward the page minimum/maximum)

*Please e-mail me with any questions while you are writing! ☺*