Basic AICE Essay Outline: Discursive

1. Paragraph 1:

 Introduction. Should:

Introduce topic

Provide context

Define scope/ interpret key terms

Set the tone (objective)

Include thesis (last sentence- road map to your essay)

1. Paragraph 2: Body paragraph 1. Should include:

Topic sentence. Lets your reader know what this paragraph will be about. Each sentence in this paragraph should relate to this

Pro point 1. The first pro point of your investigation

Reasons some support this point

Example/Evidence illustrating those reasons

Link from claim to example

3.) Paragraph 3: Body paragraph 2: Should include:

Transition (seamless, or word/phrase)

Topic sentence. Lets your reader know what this paragraph will be about. Each sentence in this paragraph should relate to this

Pro point 2. The second pro point of your investigation

Reasons some support your claim

Example/Evidence illustrating those reasons

Link from claim to example

4.) Paragraph 4: Body paragraph 3: Should include:

Transition (seamless, or word/phrase)

Topic sentence. Lets your reader know what this paragraph will be about. Each sentence in this paragraph should relate to this

Con point 1. The first con point of your investigation

Reasons some support your claim

Example/Evidence illustrating those reasons

Link from claim to example

5.) Paragraph 5: Body paragraph 4: Should include:

Transition (seamless, or word/phrase)

Topic sentence. Lets your reader know what this paragraph will be about. Each sentence in this paragraph should relate to this

Con point 2. The second con point of your investigation

Reasons some support your claim

Example/Evidence illustrating those reasons

Link from claim to example

7.) Conclusion: Should:

1. Signal the end of the essay
2. Restate your thesis
3. Draw conclusions about the issue based on the evidence you presented
4. Offer fresh new ideas (NOT new points!), insights, or alternate ways of thinking as a result of the input you shared
5. Make a final judgement

Might also:

1. Consider implication and consequences of accepting or denying your position
2. Offer solutions and/or make value-based judgements when appropriate