

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

OUTLINES AND THESIS STATEMENTS

Evaluating a Sample Outline for a Research Paper

Directions Read the following outline for a research paper about efforts to save endangered species. You will find that in some instances the order of topics in the headings and subheadings is incorrect. Answer the questions below the outline. Then rewrite your new, improved outline on a separate sheet of paper.

Saving Endangered Species

- I. Introduction
- II. Causes of endangerment
 - A. Loss of habitat
 - B. Overhunting
 - C. Pollution
 - D. Introduction of predators or competitors
 - E. Establishing refuges
- III. Methods of saving species
 - A. Cleaning up pollution
 - B. Help with breeding
 - C. Reintroducing to the wild
 - D. Controlling hunting
- IV. Definition of endangered species
- V. Success stories
 - A. Trumpeter swans
 - B. Alligators
 - C. River otters are lovable creatures
- VI. Questions
 - A. Question of where to best focus efforts
 - B. Wisdom of interfering with nature
 - C. What happened to the dinosaurs?
- VII. Conclusion

1. Which heading is in the wrong place? Where would you put it to improve the order of this outline?

2. The style of one subheading does not fit the style of the rest. Which subheading is it, and how could you improve it?

3. Which subheading seems to be under the wrong heading? Name it and tell where it should go.

4. Which subheading does not fit the topic? Why?
