

Banning the Penguin: Research Paper Outline

Introduction How are penguins hurting our society? Penguins should be banned from our civilization.

- I. Classifying the penguins.
 - A. Leader penguins
 - B. Worker penguins (quote from *Penguins Today*)
 - C. Poisonous penguins (paraphrase from *National Geographic*)
 - D. Penguins with law degrees (quote from *California Lawyer*)

- II. How they directly harm human society
 - A. Break-ins at ice factories (quote from *Modern Ice*)
 - B. Leave raw, unfinished fish carcasses in public places
 - C. Refuse to follow traffic rules (quote from www.cpd.gov) (quote from *San Francisco Chronicle*)
 - D. Terrorize cats

- III. Costs to community
 - A. Increased air conditioning bills (quote from *Contra Costa Times*)
 - B. Increased medical bills for humans who trip over penguins (paraphrase from *California Lawyer*)
 - C. Increased public spending on traffic control
 - D. Increased public spending on cat therapy (quote from *Cat Fancy Magazine*)

- IV. Potential solutions
 - A. Encourage the fashion industry to utilize penguin pelts in both outer wear and formal wear
 - B. Penguin tax (quote from www.caltax.com)
 - C. Low income housing for sharks and killer whales near penguin neighborhoods
 - D. Penguin hunts

Conclusion—the penguin has got to go; this fishy bird is a burden on human society.

Note that there are four sections to the essay in addition to an introduction and a conclusion (your essay will have more than four sections). Each section has four subsections—these will probably be about one paragraph each. The author has already researched his topic and has determined where most of the quotations and paraphrases will go. The outline is simply a method for organizing the material the writer has gathered from research. It is a way to plan our writing before we begin so we will have a clear idea about what we will write. Once the outline is finished, it is easy to write the research paper.