

Sample outline

(to go with the sample paper)

Write your thesis statement (the point you're going to try to make), and then plug your details into a logical order. Move them around until the order of the outline starts to make sense (this way you won't repeat yourself when you write your paper).

Thesis Statement: The legend of Bigfoot is a fun, important piece of folklore...and totally made up!

I. Bigfoot paper intro

A. Attention-grabbing lead or statement

1. Physical description

- a. tall, 6-10
- b. hairy, varying colors
- c. huge feet, 12-26 inches

2. Location

- a. Forests, swamps, and wilderness areas
 - 1. Especially the Pacific Northwest

3. How does legend spread (quick statements)

B. Thesis Statement (Bigfoot is NOT real)

II. Timeline for legend

A. First/earliest reports

1. Native American legends

- a. Salish tribe – “Sasquatch”
- b. Sammish tribe – “stickmen”
- c. Yakima tribe – “cannibals in the mountains”
 - 1. Explanation as to why these legends aren't true

B. first “modern” or settler reports

- a. Lewis and Clark, 1802 – “huge, swarthy beasts”

C. modern reports – mass media

- a. Famous tracks in Bluff Creek, California – 1958
 - 1. Jerry Crew, plaster casts
 - 2. Ray Wallace, roadbuilder and Bigfoot hoaxer
- b. Patterson-Gimlin film, Bluff Creek, 1967
 - 1. Short Roger Patterson description – huckster, hoaxer

III. The Science of Bigfoot/Reasons it's false

A. Footprints

1. Dermal ridges

B. hair/blood/stool samples

1. So far, all of these have been proven false or hoaxed

C. Area of rumored habitat

- 1. Do these areas have enough food/water to support a 800 lb monster?
 - a. NO – this is the strongest evidence why it's fake

D. A complete lack of:

- 1.** Bones – why haven't any been found?
- 2.** Physical specimens – a dead one, hair, blood, etc. Why none?
- 3.** Good photographs – why is EVERY picture blurry? Is Bigfoot just blurry?

IV. Closing

A. Re-statement of the thesis

- 1.** The legend of Bigfoot is an important, entertaining piece of American folklore, and one that the evidence says is **TOTALLY BOGUS**.
 - a.** Emphasize why the story is important/fun, end with a “hook”