Outline for an Expository Research Paper

Use this if you are writing about the significance of someone or something.

I. Introduction
1. Capture your reader’s attention with perhaps a quote from the person or an interesting anecdote about him or her.
2. In 2 or 3 sentences explain how this person event has made an impact on people in the 20th and/or 21st century(ies).
3. State your thesis. Your thesis should be fairly detailed in which you include the three major reasons why this person/event has made an impact.

II. Background
1. Write a topic sentence which states that you will be providing some historical or biographical information on the subject.
2. Provide a summary of the history/biography in 8-10 sentences. Be sure to document any information you have summarized or paraphrased from another source.
3. Concluding sentence

III. Explanation

Reason #1—the least important reason
1. Write a topic sentence delineating this reason. This should be very similar to the first reason you stated in your thesis. The sentence should begin with a transitional word or phrase.
2. Write a sentence with quoted material that supports this reason. Do not dump your quotes. Either embed them or introduce them with a lead-in phrase.
3. Write a sentence of commentary.
4. Write another sentence of commentary.
5. Write another sentence with quoted material that also supports this reason. Do not dump your quotes. Either embed them or introduce them with a lead-in phrase.
6. Write a sentence of commentary.
7. Write another sentence of commentary.
8. Write a concluding sentence.

Reason #2—the 2nd most important reason
1. Write a topic sentence delineating this reason. This should be very similar to the second reason you stated in your thesis. The sentence should begin with a transitional word or phrase. Your topic sentence should include a concept word from the last sentence of the previous paragraph and use it in a different way.
2. Write a sentence with quoted material that supports this reason. Do not dump your quotes. Either embed them or introduce them with a lead-in phrase.
3. Write a sentence of commentary.
4. Write another sentence of commentary.
5. Write another sentence with quoted material that also supports this reason. Do not dump your quotes. Either embed them or introduce them with a lead-in phrase.
6. Write a sentence of commentary.
7. Write another sentence of commentary.
8. Write a concluding sentence.

**Reason #3—**the most important reason
1. Write a topic sentence delineating this reason. This should be very similar to the third reason you stated in your thesis. The sentence should begin with a transitional word or phrase. Your topic sentence should include a concept word from the last sentence of the previous paragraph and use it in a different way.
2. Write a sentence with quoted material that supports this reason. Do not dump your quotes. Either embed them or introduce them with a lead-in phrase.
3. Write a sentence of commentary.
4. Write another sentence of commentary.
5. Write another sentence with quoted material that also supports this reason. Do not dump your quotes. Either embed them or introduce them with a lead-in phrase.
6. Write a sentence of commentary.
7. Write another sentence of commentary.
8. Write a concluding sentence.

**IV. Opposition A**
1. Write a topic sentence explaining how some might not agree that this person or event was particularly influential.
2a. If you have a source that confirms this point of view, quote from it in this sentence.
3a. If you have quoted a sentence, write commentary on it in 2-3 sentences.
4a. Repeat steps 2a and 3a if you have more material to quote from.
5a. Explain why these points of view are incorrect in one or two sentences.

**OR**

**Opposition B**
1. Write a topic sentence explaining how some might not agree that this person or event was particularly influential.
2. Explain in your own words in at least 4 sentences why this person or event may not have had a big impact on some people.
3. In at least two sentences, explain why this point of view is incorrect.

**V. Conclusion**
1. Using a transitional word or phrase, signal that your essay is coming to an end in this topic sentence.
2. Describe the impact that this person may have had on you, someone close to you, to your generation or peer group, to society, or even to the world.
3. Wrap up your essay with a clever quote from your person or about your event.