Sample Outline in an MLA Paper (Levi)

Levi i

Outline pages are numbered with small roman numerals.

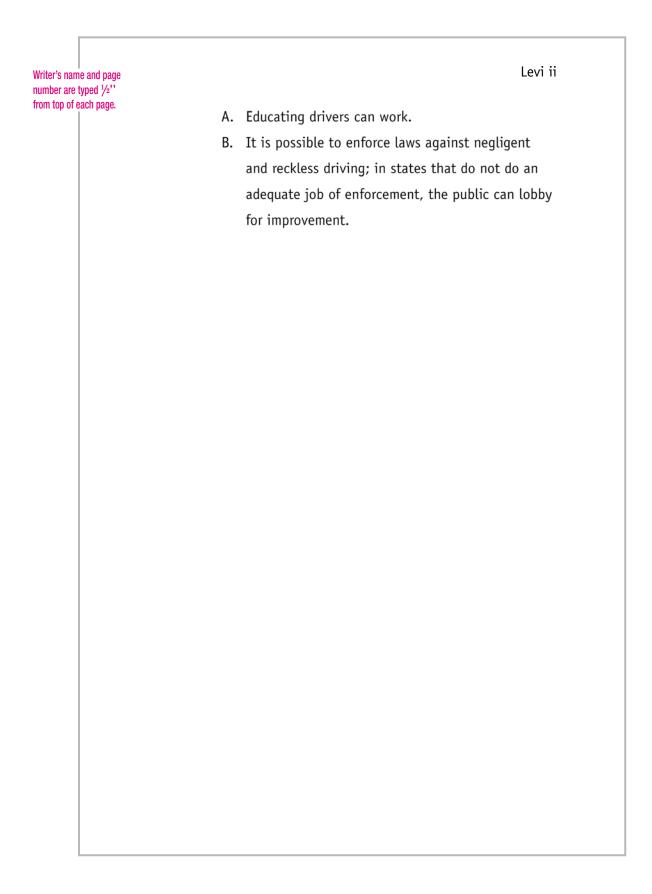
Outline begins with thesis and uses standard format.

THESIS: Unless the risks of cell phones are shown to outweigh the benefits, we should not restrict their use in moving vehicles; instead, we should educate the public about the dangers of driving while phoning and prosecute irresponsible phone users under laws on negligent and reckless driving.

Outline

- Scientific studies haven't proved a link between use of cell phones and traffic accidents.
 - A. A study by Redelmeier and Tibshirani was not conclusive, as the researchers themselves have admitted.
 - B. Most states do not keep records on accidents caused by driver distractions.
 - C. In a survey of research on cell phones and driving, Cain and Burris report that results so far have been inconclusive.
- II. The risks of using cell phones while driving should be weighed against the benefits.
 - A. At the Harvard Center for Risk Analysis, researchers found that the risks of driving while phoning were small compared with other driving risks.
 - B. There are safety, business, and personal benefits to using cell phones on the road.
- III. We need to educate drivers on using cell phones responsibly and enforce laws on negligent and reckless driving.

Outline is written in complete sentences.



Source: Diana Hacker (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2006).