**Outlining and Thesis Statement**

Planning and organizing before doing any actual research for your report is important. Completing a KWL chart on your topic is one way to begin organization. Another way for organization is an outline. An example of one is given below.

Thesis: There are many kinds of waves in nature

I. Seismic Waves

A. Characteristics

1. P wave - strongest type of body wave

2. Longitudinal

3. Travel through either liquid or solid matter

B. Effects

1. Results in liquid or solid vibrating uncontrollably

2. Vibrations-compression or expansion of rocks

II. Sound Waves

A. Characteristics

1. Pure tone - the simplest sound wave

2. Characterized by frequency

B. Behavior

1. Light waves and sound waves - same actions

2. Reflect and scatter

Note that the topics beside the Roman numerals are general topics. These corresponds to the categories into which you will sort your note cards. Details about those categories are found in the subdivisions.