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Research Paper Outline: Example

# Introduction

## Hook

## Background information

## Thesis: Federal regulations need to foster laws that will help protect wetlands, restore those that have been destroyed, and take measures to improve the damage from overdevelopment.

# Nature's ecosystem

   A. Loss of wetlands nationally

   B. Loss of wetlands in Illinois

       1. More flooding and poorer water quality

       2. Lost ability to prevent floods, clean water and store water

# Dramatic floods

   A. Cost in dollars and lives

      1. 13 deaths between 1988 and 1998

      2. Cost of $39 million per year

   B. Great Midwestern Flood of 1993

      1. Lost wetlands in IL

      2. Devastation in some states

    C. Flood Prevention

      1. Plants and Soils

      2. Floodplain overflow

# Wetland laws

   A. Inadequately informed legislators

      1. Watersheds

    2. Interconnections in natural water systems

   B. Water purification

# Solutions

   A. New federal definition

   B. Re-education about interconnectedness

      1. Ecology at every grade level

      2. Education for politicians and developers

      3. Choices in schools and people's live

# Conclusion

## Restate thesis: It is important to understand that our wetlands are in jeopardy and that the government needs to protect them.

## Closing statements