Directions: The purpose of the outline is to build on your annotated bibliography and to demonstrate that you are making progress in organizing the information for your research paper.
In constructing the outline, use the major sections to highlight the main ideas you will present in your paper. Within each major section, detail the research, theory, or concepts that inform ecological perspectives on that major idea, and include references.

Keep in mind the original paper assignment from the syllabus:

A comprehensive research paper on an ecological topic of your choice (but cleared by me) will be due at the end of the semester. Your paper should be a synthetic review of the topic, critically evaluating multiple, complementary or contradictory perspectives on the process, issue, or pattern of interest. As part of the assignment, an annotated bibliography and outline will be due during the semester. The research paper should be 8-10 pages in length, not including title page, literature cited, tables, and figures.

Anatomy of the Research Paper:
1. The Title Page provides a compelling, explanatory title, along with your name.
2. The Main Body of the text (pages 1-10) is double-spaced. Start by giving background information from the literature to motivate your topic and place it in the broader context of ecology. Clearly state what is known about the topic and highlight any controversy that exists. On or about page 2, clearly state alternative hypotheses that bear on the topic. In the remainder of the paper, relate evidence (e.g., documented facts, graphs and tables that you compile from the literature) that supports or contradicts these alternative hypotheses. Conclude by summarizing current trends and future potential for research on the topic. Highlight any important open questions.
3. The Literature Cited section lists the papers cited in your paper, using the standard format found in the journal Ecology.
4. The Tables each have a legend above. If they are from the literature, their source must be cited.
5. The Figures each have a legend below. If they are from the literature, their source must be cited.

For stylistic example, I suggest that you examine review or synthesis articles in either Bioscience or Trends in Ecology and Evolution.