I. **Introduction**

1. Claim that the discovery of germ theory revolutionized our understanding of disease

2. Background on the prevailing miasma theory of disease before germ theory

3. Thesis statement: The groundbreaking work of Louis Pasteur and others in discovering germ theory paved the way for modern medicine and improved public health practices.

II. **Situation before germ theory**

1. Widespread belief in the miasma theory, which held that diseases were caused by bad air or vapors

2. Poor sanitation and lack of understanding about the spread of contagious diseases

3. Consequence: High rates of infectious diseases and epidemics

III. **Discovery and establishment of germ theory**

1. Louis Pasteur's experiments disproving spontaneous generation and identifying microorganisms

2. Robert Koch's work identifying specific germs responsible for diseases like anthrax and cholera

3. Consequence: Rapid acceptance of germ theory and a new understanding of disease transmission

IV. **Germ theory's influence on public health**

1. Development of antiseptic practices in medicine and surgery

2. Public health initiatives like improving sanitation infrastructure and implementing quarantines

3. Consequence: Drastic reductions in infectious disease rates and increased life expectancy

V. Conclusion

1. Summarize the key discoveries and changes brought about by germ theory

2. Emphasize the profound impact on global health and mortality rates