

Pre-Writing Activity/Outline Assignment Sheet

As we undergo the process of writing, we tend to spend time reading our sources, taking notes, and generating ideas by brainstorming and asking questions. At some point in the writing process, though, we will need to move from the exploring stage to the planning and drafting stages.

Often, writers use an outline to create a tentative plan for their essays and to organize their ideas. An outline gives us the opportunity to form a clear and specific working thesis and then to identify those ideas that will effectively work to support our thesis. In addition, we can create smooth transitions to connect the main ideas within our essay. An outline can prove especially useful to us when we are writing a source-based essay, such as the synthesis essay, because it helps us to “try out” our ideas and plan the use of our sources before we begin writing the rough draft.

For this assignment, then, please follow the structure provided below. Submit your outline to the Discussion Board for peer review. After your peers have commented on your outline, make any necessary revisions and submit your outline to the Drop Box for your instructor to review.

NOTE: This template offers five main ideas and three subordinate points for each main idea. However, your outline may vary from this template; you may find that you have fewer or more main ideas/subordinate points.

INTRODUCTION

Type a rough draft of your complete introduction. Remember to use the inverted triangle model. (See your text for a review of this model).

THESIS

Include your thesis in your introduction or shortly thereafter. Be sure to clearly identify your thesis in the outline so that your peers and your instructor can review it. See the "Synthesis Essay Assignment Sheet" to review sample templates for the thesis. While you are not required to use any of these templates, they may help you to structure your thesis.

I. First Main Idea: _____

(Support for first main idea. Include any textual examples and page numbers that you will use.)

A.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

B.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

C.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

TRANSITION: _____

II. Second Main Idea: _____

(Support for second main idea. Include any textual examples and page numbers that you will use.)

A.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

B.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

C.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

TRANSITION: _____

III. Third Main Idea: _____

(Support for third main idea. Include any textual examples and page numbers that you will use.)

A.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

B.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

C.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

TRANSITION: _____

IV. Fourth Main Idea: _____

(Support for fourth main idea. Include any textual examples and page numbers that you will use.)

A.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

B.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

C.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

TRANSITION: _____

V. **Fifth Main Idea:** _____

(Support for fifth main idea. Include any textual examples and page numbers that you will use.)

A.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

B.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

C.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

CONCLUSION

(Briefly note any concluding remarks/ideas you might use.)
