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Academic Writing

from paragraph to essay



Outlining an Essay

- Outlining = making an outline
- Outline = list of information
- Outlining is the *most practical* method to brainstorm ideas for an essay
- Brainstorming methods: mapping, free writing , & listing

What Does an Outline do?

- 1- It states the thesis statement.
- 2- It shows the organization of the essay (i.e., how many paragraphs included and in what order).
- 3- It shows what ideas the writer will discuss, and in what sequence.
- 4- It tells what the conclusion will be.

Why is an outline Important?

- 1- It shows the writer what exactly to write.
- 2- It facilitates organization and clear focus.
- 3- It makes the writer avoid missing important points.
- 4- like a skeleton, it provides structure for the essay.
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- Fleshing an outline out = changing it into a full essay (i.e., full paragraphs with full sentences).

Looking at an outline

I- Read the outline on page 65. Answer the questions.

A- What will the thesis statement of the essay be?

Answer : Nuclear power is not a good energy source for the world.

B- How many paragraphs will there be in the main body?

Answer : THREE paragraphs.

C. How many supporting points will the third paragraph have? What will they be?

Answer: TWO ; they are : A. Nuclear fuels are dangerous & B. Nuclear waste products are dangerous

D. How many details will the fourth paragraph have? What will they be?

Answer: Eight details; They are: **1.** Three Mile Island, USA (1979), **2.** Tarapur, India (1992), **3.** Darlington, Canada (1992)

4. Chernobyl, USSR (1986), **5.** Kola, Russia (1991), **6.** Tokaimura, Japan (1999)

7. Earthquake: Kozloduy, Bulgaria (1977), **8.** Tornado: Moruroa, the Pacific (1981)

How to write an outline

- 1- Gather ideas
- 2- edit them
- 3- Use different types of numbers:
 - A- Roman numerals for **main ideas** (i.e., paragraphs like Introduction, First idea, Conclusion)
 - B- Capital Roman Letters for Supporting Points(Or Major Support Sentences)
 - C- Arabic Numbers for Details (Minor Support Sentences such as examples, etc.

An Outline : Example

Don't Support Nuclear Energy!

I. Nuclear power is not a good energy source for the world.

II. Very expensive

A. Nuclear fuel is expensive

B. Nuclear power stations are expensive to build and operate

1. Cost of construction

2. Cost of training workers

3. Cost of safety features

III. Nuclear materials are not safe

A. Nuclear fuels are dangerous

I. Mining fuels produces radioactive gas

2. Working with radioactive fuels

can harm workers

B. Nuclear waste products are dangerous

I. Very radioactive

2. Difficult to dispose of or store safely

IV. There is a great possibility of accidents

A. Nuclear power stations can fail

I. Three Mile Island, USA (1979)

2. Tarapur, India (1992)

3. Darlington, Canada (1992)

B. Workers can make mistakes

I. Chernobyl, USSR (1986)

2. Kola, Russia (1991)

3. Tokaimura, Japan (1999)

C. Natural disasters can occur

I. Earthquake: Kozloduy, Bulgaria (1977)

2. Tornado: Moruroa, the Pacific (1981)

V. Because of the cost and the danger, the world should develop different types of energy to replace nuclear power.

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2 Fill in this outline for the essay in Unit 8, exercise 1 on page 57

The Changing Vocabulary of English

I. Thesis statement: *African Americans, too, have both contributed new words to English and changed the meanings of some existing words.*

II. Words introduced by *African Americans (who come as slaves)*

AOK.....

1. From an African language
2. Now used all over the world to mean ...all right. ...

B- Jazz

1. Came fromAfrican American Musicians in New Orleans.
2. Exact origin unknown

III. *changing the meanings of some existing words*

A. Cool

1. Original meaning
2. New meanings

B. .Square

1. Original meaning
2. ..New meaning

IV.Conclusion: Existing ethnic groups in the United States as well as new immigrants will certainly continue to bring new words to English and give fresh meanings to existing words.

3 Label each statement T for thesis statement, M for main idea, S for supporting point, or c for conclusion. The Benefits of yoga

- a. (S) Develops clear thinking
- b. (M) Physical benefits
- c. (S) Improves concentration
- d.(S) Reduces fear, anger, and worry
- e.(M) Mental benefits
- f. (S) Improves blood circulation
- g.(S) Improves digestion
- h.(S) Helps you feel calm and peaceful
- i. (S) Develops self-confidence
- j. (T) *Doing yoga regularly can be good for your mind, your body, and your emotions.*
- k. (S) Makes you strong and flexible
- l. (C) **Therefore, to build mental, physical, and emotional health, consider doing yoga.**
- m.(M) Emotional benefits

4 Arrange the ideas in exercise 3 above into an outline

- I. Doing yoga regularly can be good for your mind, body, and your emotions.
- II. Mental Benefits
 - A. Develops clear thinking
 - B. Improves concentration
- III. Physical Benefits
 - A. Improves blood circulation
 - B. Improves digestion
 - C. Makes you strong and flexible
- IV. Emotional Benefits
 - A. Reduces fear, anger, and worry
 - B. Helps you feel calm and peaceful
 - C. Develops self-confidence
- V. Therefore, to build mental, physical, and emotional health, consider doing yoga.

Evaluating an outline

- We check the following:

- 1- **Organisation**

- 2- **Support**

- 3- **Topic development**

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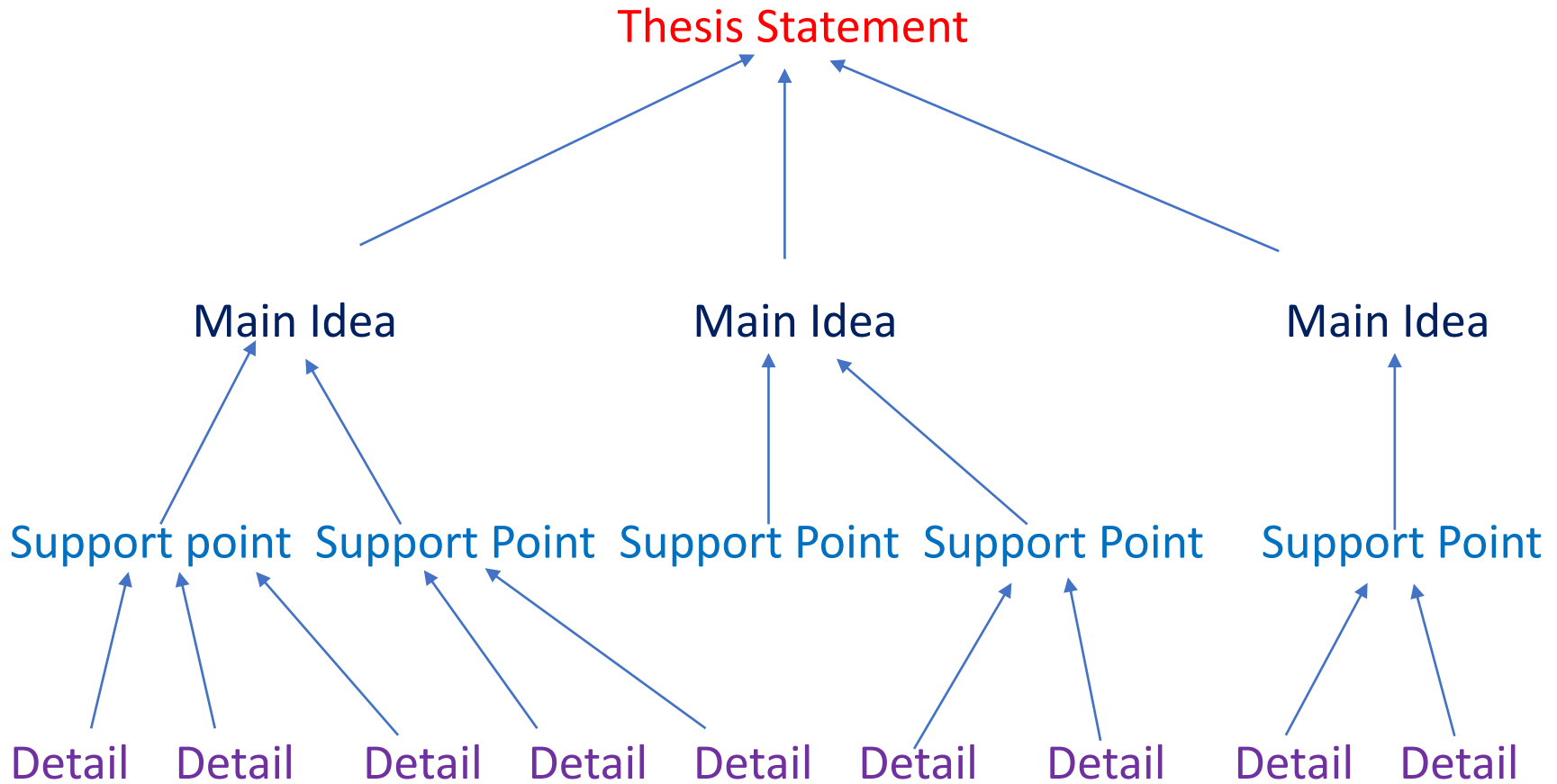
Organisation= right order of paragraphs, supporting points, & details

Support= Relatedness (Main Ideas. to Thesis Statement; Support Points to Main Idea; Details To Support Points)

Topic Development= Enough (not too many)

Main Ideas; Support Points; & Details

Topic Development



5 Check outline on page 69

The Effects of the California Gold Rush on the City of San Francisco

I. The California gold rush changed San Francisco in ways that we can still see today.

II. History of the gold rush

A. 1848

1. Gold was discovered near San Francisco
2. The US president tells the country there's gold in California

B. 1849: the gold rush begins as people from all over the world go to California

to look for gold. Gold is very easy to find.

C. 1850s: gold becomes more difficult to find; big, expensive machines are now

needed to find gold

D. 1864: the gold rush ends

III. Changes in California in the 1800s

A. Population increased-more than 40,000 people moved to California in 1848--50

B. Everything became more expensive

1. Houses and land

C. Problems with crime and violence

D. Technology to find gold improved

IV. Effects on San Francisco today

A. People still come to San Francisco hoping to get rich

1. Computer industry

C. San Francisco is still an expensive city

1. Houses and land

2. Food and clothing

D. Still problems in the city

E. Technological development is still important

F. There is no gold mining today

G. Character of San Francisco today

V. The special personality of San Francisco can be traced in part to the famous

gold rush of the 1800s.