How to Outline: Re-explained

Move your cursor over the comment to see the highlighted passage that correlates to the comment. Click on the comment bubble to see what I say. Please read all of the comments to get help on your outline.

**Step 1:** Put your thesis at the top of your page

**Step 2:** Write topic sentences for each of your body paragraphs (they become the upper case roman numerals). They should be mini-thesis statements, mini-arguments in your paper that help you prove your thesis statement

**Step 3:** Under each topic sentence (upper case roman numeral) list your examples from the novel. Examples should be phrases or short direct quotes. Please keep the ideas concise. Each example should be on a new line and have an upper caser letter

**Step 4:** Under each topic sentence try to add a lit criticism quote (from the articles you researched in the library) that helps to prove your claim. You can take the direct quotes from the article and type them up. Remember the quotes should be short. These should also be on new lines and have an upper case letter

**Step 5:** Check that your topic sentences transition from one idea to the next – show how they are related. Rewrite them to show this relation/development of your idea

**Step 6:** Make sure that your thesis directly shows the development of your ideas in the body paragraphs – that it is clear how each paragraph relates to your thesis. You may have to rewrite your thesis to show this structure

Rough Draft Example of Outline

**Disclaimer: This outline is missing lit criticism for each paragraph. You should have a quote from lit criticism articles for nearly every body paragraph.**

Fitzgerald exposes the plight of women in 1920s America –social expectations of the 1920s trapped women in unhealthy and unsatisfying relationships while their independence from relationships made them appear less attractive and elicited unsympathetic responses.

1. Social expectations trapped upper middle class women in unhealthy relationships
2. Daisy locked in the bathroom after voicing her opposition to the marriage 4 times
3. “Daisy’s life, being courted by military men and wealthy men from cities like Chicago and New Orleans, ‘seemed romantic’ and glamorous to the sixteen year-old Jordan, so she is understandably traumatized by Daisy’s behavior the night before her wedding, which reveals to Jordan the truth about marriage in a patriarchal capitalist society” (Froehlich 96)
4. Tom controlling in the relationship – cuts Daisy off
5. Tom bruising her finger
6. “The marriages of the women in Fitzgerald’s The Great Gatsby . . . demonstrate the peculiar position of how a married woman’s home becomes her prison” (Cornish 48)
7. Social expectations also trapped lower class women in unhealthy relationships
8. Myrtle locked in her room
9. Lack of communication between Myrtle and George
10. Myrtle’s verbal abuse?
11. These forced relationships left women feeling unsatisfied
12. Daisy’s relationship with Gatsby
13. “The level of satisfaction in this relationship is tenuous” (Cornish 49)
14. Myrtle’s relationship with Tom
15. Independent women viewed as less attractive and undeserving of sympathy
16. Possibility of Daisy’s relationship makes her worth more in Gatsby’s eyes
17. Jordan’s physical appearance
18. Nick finds Jordan unattractive

Updated Outline Rubric

Structure/Format

1. ~~Parallelism \_\_\_\_\_\_/1 point~~

~~Each heading and subheading should preserve parallel structure. If the first heading is a verb, the second heading should be a verb.~~

1. Transitions \_\_\_\_\_\_/1 point

Show the relationship between your topic sentences – make the connection obvious for me. If you are struggling to figure out how the ideas are related, you may have to change your ideas.

1. Coordination \_\_\_\_\_\_/1 point

All the information contained in Heading 1 should have the same significance as the information contained in Heading 2.

1. Subordination \_\_\_\_\_\_/1 point

The information in the headings should be more general, while the information in the subheadings should be more specific.

1. Division \_\_\_\_\_\_/1 point

Each heading should be divided into 2 or more parts.

Content

1. Support \_\_\_\_\_\_/4 points

Each topic has ample evidence from your novel and literary criticisms to support and prove your claim

1. Relevance \_\_\_\_\_\_/3 points

Each topic directly relates to thesis.

1. Development \_\_\_\_\_\_/4 points

Each topic builds off of the previous topic and the development flows smoothly.

Total \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/15 points