Making an Outline

**Purpose of an Outline**

An outline is the last effort of organizing your ideas before you write your first draft. This step in the writing process is just as important as writing the actual essay. In order to complete this outline, you will need your thesis statement and note cards.

**Stating Your Thesis Statement**

The first step to creating your outline is stating the thesis statement at the top of the page. Your thesis statement will serve as the guide to your outline. All main ideas must support or explain your thesis statement.

**Organizing your Notes**

Now you have completed 25 notes worth of information. Next, you will begin organizing and classifying all of those notes into two or three main ideas. The main ideas should also align with your thesis statement. Each main idea will have 2-4 paragraphs.

Outline Format

Introduction

Thesis Statement:

Narration

Reserve about 3-5 notes specifically for the narration chuck of the paper. This should include notes that inform your audience on the topic of your essay. List the notes below.

Note:

Note:

Note:

Confirmation

MI. Main Idea

CL. Claim

E. Evidence (note #)

E. Evidence (note #)

C. Commentary (abbreviated or fragmented)

C. Commentary (abbreviated or fragmented)

CL. Claim

E. Evidence (note #)

E. Evidence

C. Commentary

C. Commentary (abbreviated or fragmented)

CL. Claim

E. Evidence

E. Evidence (note #)

E. Evidence

C. Commentary (abbreviated or fragmented)

C. Commentary (abbreviated or fragmented)

CL. Claim

E. Evidence

E. Evidence (note #)

E. Evidence

C. Commentary (abbreviated or fragmented)

C. Commentary (abbreviated or fragmented)

*Continue . . .*

*Your paper should consist of between 2-3 main ideas. In those main ideas, you will have between 2-4 paragraphs explaining and exploring the main idea. Each paragraph needs claim, evidence, commentary. Don’t forget to outline your antithesis section as well. Color-code each section to match your note cards if you would like. The main objective of this step is to be as organized as possible heading into the drafting stage.*