

Outlining in Reverse...Ahead of Time

Remember that color-coded essay that you had to “outline in reverse”? Well, this is similar, but this time you’re going to do it *before* you write the draft of your research paper. Remember: you will not just be listing facts you learned about your topic. You will be making comparisons and drawing conclusions to formulate a thesis of your own. Your task is to convince your readers that your thesis about mythology is true.

What is the **Essential Question** that your research paper will answer?

Introductory Paragraph

Attention Getter: What will yours be? How are you going to interest your readers?

Background information: What basic information does the reader need to understand before you state your main points and thesis?

What are the three main points your research will prove? These are not just facts you learned in your research; they are conclusions you have drawn after looking at all the facts and stories. Write each as a complete sentence:

1)

2)

3)

Write the **thesis statement** that will appear at the end of your introductory paragraph:

(Remember: Your thesis statement should answer your essential question.)

Area of Focus #1

Write the topic sentence for your first area of focus. It should make reference to your thesis and clearly state your first main point. (It should read as a clear, complete sentence).

List three (3) examples that refer to *specific* events or characters in mythology you will use to prove this point. (Do not just retell the stories. *Use* them to prove your point!)

Write a transition sentence to get from your first area of focus to the second area of focus:

Area of Focus #2

Write the topic sentence for your second area of focus. It should make reference to your thesis and clearly state your second main point. (It should read as a clear, complete sentence).

List three (3) examples that refer to *specific* events or characters in mythology you will use to prove this point. (Do not just retell the stories. *Use* them to prove your point!)

Write a transition sentence to get from your second area of focus to the third one:

Area of Focus #3

Write the topic sentence for your third area of focus. It should make reference to your thesis and clearly state your third main point. (It should read as a clear, complete sentence).

List three (3) examples that refer to *specific* events or characters in mythology you will use to prove this point. (Do not just retell the stories. *Use* them to prove your point!)

Write a clincher sentence for your third area of focus.

Conclusion Paragraph

Write a summary sentence that restates (in different words) the thesis statement that answers your Essential Question:

How will you briefly restate your main points in different words than you used in the introduction?

Write a powerful, memorable, and effective closing sentence for the paper: