

Instructor Guide for Sample Outline

(SPARK >> Exploring >> Essay Structure)

NOTE: This resource provides examples of a 4th-year student's work as she moves through the essay-writing process – selecting a topic, drafting, etc. The resource helps illustrate that writers learn about their topics and understand them better as they write – one doesn't have to have the full picture of the essay or even its central point before beginning. It can help students see the recursive nature of effective writing.

An interview with this 4th-year student about her writing process appears in the Essay Structure module (see 2nd slide) and could be used in conjunction with this resource.

Skills Addressed

- using appropriate strategies to organize information and ideas
- making connections among ideas explicit
- applying revision strategies
- using a recursive process of writing and revising drafts

Suggested Uses

- Independent student use:** Ask/suggest that students read resource on their own and decide for themselves when/if/how they will use resource
 - Tip: Less experienced writers may need more guidance with the resource than that required by advanced students because it provides little commentary on the student writer's process.
- Instructor-led Discussion:** Devote lecture/tutorial time to describing the resource, its purposes and uses, and/or incorporate description and use of resource into broader discussion focusing on building the skills the resource targets
- Small Group Discussion:** Use to stimulate informal class/tutorial discussion, and/or small group discussion

Feedback / Evaluation Options

- Personal reflection and/or self-assessment**
- Informally, in small group discussion:** Assign to students to complete for sharing and discussion in small groups
- Peer Evaluation:** Assign to students to complete independently, for more formal peer evaluation
- Instructor Evaluation:** Assign to students to complete independently, or as one stage of a larger assignment, and hand in for formal instructor evaluation
- Tracking Completion without Evaluating:** Assign to students to complete resource independently (on an ongoing basis, or at specific, appropriate times during the course), then hand in to instructor to track completion without assigning a specific grade to any individual completed resource

Potential Customization

Instructors rarely have examples of drafts and completed student essays that can be discussed with their class as a whole. The draft and final essay in this resource provide useful examples that could be used as a basis for a discussion about many aspects of academic writing, including structure, clarity, language, etc.