

The Harvard Outline

So what if we are not Harvard students.

Let's learn how to outline as they do!

Okay, so we don't go to Harvard, so why do we have to write a Harvard Outline?

- ✦ The Harvard Outline is one of the most controlled and logical tools for organization - but it is also a tool for generating content.
- ✦ We will be writing a Harvard outline in preparation for your Wes Moore essay. Ultimately, it will help you write a well-organized and detailed essay.
- ✦ After that, it will be an expectation that all of your writing assignments will be outlined in some way.

What is a Harvard Outline anyway?

- ✦ It is a structured outline that lays out your ideas for an essay *before* you put all the effort into writing it.
- ✦ It is composed of phrases and key words only.
NO COMPLETE SENTENCES!
- ✦ The focus is on the thesis and the topic sentences: the four most important components of your essay!

Your topic sentences are born from your thesis statement.

- ✦ Yes, I said “born” and here’s why...

In order to have a solid essay, a student needs structured topic sentences and relevant supporting details. (thesis statement)

- ✦ Topic sentences must be *structured* because they help the reader understand what the following paragraph is going to focus on. (topic sentence #1)
- ✦ *Supporting details* give relevancy to the thesis and prove the argument true. (topic sentence #2)

Sample Harvard Outline

I. Introduction

A. Statement regarding the "Great Divide"

1. definition

2. discussion

3. ramifications

B. Segue into the Novel

1. T.A.G.

2. Circumstances of each young man

C. Introduction of articles used

1. Brief discussion regarding the articles (must be in fragmented form!)

2. Connections to both Wes Moores?

D. Thesis Statement: "The Great Divide" adversely affected both the author and the other Wes Moore economically, psychologically, and sociologically (or one category...depending on the scope of your articles chosen)

Now, it's your turn!

Homework

- Complete the Harvard outline of the introduction for your Wes Moore essay
- Remember: I. → A. → 1. → a. → i.
- Every I. must have a II. Every A. must have a B. and so forth.
- I., II., III., A., B., C., 1., 2., 3., a., b., c., i., ii., iii.