

# Mapping and Outlining

ENG1101

Adapted from *Rules of Thumb* pages 75-79

Purdue OWL <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/544/01/>

& Harvard Writing Center

<https://writingcenter.fas.harvard.edu/pages/essay-structure>

# Essay Mapping

- ⊗ Think about your thesis/hypothesis.
- ⊗ Consider the major points that you think you may need to make and the most important information that you've gathered.
- ⊗ Then, make a rough **essay map**...
  - ⊗ Essay maps ask you to predict where your reader will expect background information, counterargument, or evidence from a source. Essay maps are not focused on paragraphs; they just plan the major argumentative moves you expect your essay to make.

# Essay Mapping

- ❁ State your 1-2 sentence thesis. Then write another sentence saying why it's important to make that claim. (Usually, you flesh out the why in the conclusion.)
- ❁ Begin your next sentence like this: "To be convinced by my claim, the first thing a reader needs to know is . . ." Then say why that's the first thing a reader needs to know, and name 1-2 items of evidence you think make the case. (Or, you may find that the first thing your reader needs to know is some background information.)
- ❁ Begin each of the following sentences like this: "The next thing my reader needs to know is . . ." Once again, say why, and name some evidence.
- ❁ Continue until you've mapped your essay.

# Model Essay Map

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder is dangerous, and the government should take serious measures to decrease risk among military members and improve healthcare procedure to treat PTSD. **This is an important claim because** of the large number of military veterans in the U.S., many of whom may be suffering from untreated or badly treated PTSD. **To be convinced of my claim, the first thing a reader needs to know is** why military members are at especially high risk of developing PTSD. I will describe combat exposure and other situations that military members face. I will focus on the example from the Macera article. **The next thing my reader needs to know is** why PTSD is so dangerous. I will discuss examples of veterans with PTSD, including the true story behind *American Sniper*. ...

# Outlining

- ⊗ You use a formal outline to plan out parts of your essay.
- ⊗ Numbers, letters, and indentations indicate categories and subcategories. For our purposes, the biggest category will be paragraphs:
  - I. Introduction
  - II. Body Paragraph 1: Topic sentence
  - III. Body Paragraph 2: Topic sentence
  - IV. Body Paragraph 3: Topic sentence (and so on, for however many body paragraphs you need)
  - V. Conclusion

# Outlining: Body Paragraphs

- ⊗ The body paragraphs will all follow a similar format, beginning with a topic sentence followed by the supporting reasoning and evidence. For example, the PTSD essay's first body paragraph could be outlined like this:

II. Body Paragraph 1: Military members develop PTSD from combat exposure.

A. Macera article example: Private Johnson

1. He witnessed his friend's violent death.
2. Cycle of guilt afterwards

B. Other situations military members face today

1. Iraq and Afghanistan
2. IEDs, convoys being attacked, terrorism

# Outlining: Body Paragraphs

- ⊗ Notice:
  - ⊗ All the sections are indented according to their level of detail.
  - ⊗ Points A and B contain details (subcategories) that are labeled with numbers (1 and 2)
  - ⊗ There could be many more points and more details.
  - ⊗ If you know that a particular quotation, statistic, or paraphrase from a source will fit within the paragraph, include it in outline. This will make your writing process simpler.
  - ⊗ The outline isn't identical to the essay—things will change as you write!

# Outlining: Introduction

- ⊗ Your introduction section should include your thesis, a brief preview of why your claim is important, and a “hook”—information that will get your reader interested.

## I. Introduction

- A. Hook: Example of a murder committed by a veteran with PTSD—John Thuesen, who turned himself in right away.
- B. 7.8% of the population has PTSD, which is a huge number of Americans
- C. Thesis: Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder is dangerous, and the government should take serious measures to decrease risk among military members and improve healthcare procedure to treat PTSD.

# Outlining: Conclusion

- ⊗ Your conclusion section should expand on why your claim is important and, if applicable, a discussion of what you expect your readers to know or do after reading.

## I. Conclusion

- A. PTSD numbers have been reduced since WW2, but they are still very high.
- B. Without better treatment, veterans with PTSD will continue to suffer.
- C. The military should invest more in researching and treating PTSD.