

Outlining an Essay

Many writers use an **outline** to organize their thoughts before they write an essay.

Here are some **parts of an outline**:

Introduction: An introduction is the beginning of the essay. It should get the reader's attention! It can be funny or dramatic. It can quote another person. If you have a hard time writing an introduction at the beginning, you can go back and add it when you're done.

- Example: *"When I was little, I thought a good life was having a snack after school and watching cartoons for hours. Now I know there are more important things."*

Main Idea: A thesis is a short way to describe what your essay is about.

- Example: *"A good life looks different for every person. Some of the most important things for me are being healthy, spending time with my family, and working to improve myself."*

Body Paragraph: This is where you can expand and write examples of what you wrote in your thesis.

- Example: *"I learned the importance of being with family from my mother. She always made sure we were together for every holiday, and we all felt so loved. I want to do that for my kids."*

Conclusion: The conclusion ends your essay. It should include the most important things you want the reader to remember about your essay.

- Example: *"Overall, having a good life is all about finding out what makes you feel good about yourself and working to make those things happen every day. When I take my kids to the park and see them playing together, I think, 'Life is good.'"*

