

## Notes & Set-Up for Thesis-Outline

**Thesis:** This is the single statement (sentence) that you will be proving across the text of your paper; it must end with a period and include your three focal areas and an opinion.

**Example:** In the play *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare, Lady Macbeth is the driving force in the action and the outcome of the play. The factors that contribute to her powerful role are her own ambition to become queen, the influence she has over her husband, and her own cunning motives.

**Topic:** General/Broad Topic {Macbeth vs. Lady Macbeth}

**Limited Topic:** Your choice of one limited thing about your broad topic {Lady Macbeth: The Real Leader}

**Focal Areas:** 1. 1<sup>st</sup> example to support your limited topic {Ambition to become queen}

2. 2<sup>nd</sup> example to support your limited topic {Influence over her husband}

3. 3<sup>rd</sup> example to support your limited topic {Her cunning motives}

I. Introduction to your limited topic {Lady Macbeth: The Real Leader}

A. 1<sup>st</sup> example to support your limited topic (Focal Area #1) {Ambition to become queen}

B. 2<sup>nd</sup> example to support your limited topic (Focal Area #2) {Influence over her husband}

C. 3<sup>rd</sup> example to support your limited topic (Focal Area #3) {Her cunning motives}

II. 1<sup>st</sup> example to support your limited topic (Focal Area #1) {Ambition to become queen}

A. Supporting fact #1 or detail #1

B. Supporting fact #2 or detail #2

III. 2<sup>nd</sup> example to support your limited topic (Focal Area #2) {Influence over her husband}

A. Supporting fact #1 or detail #1

B. Supporting fact #2 or detail #2

IV. 3<sup>rd</sup> example to support your limited topic (Focal Area #3) {Her cunning motives}

A. Supporting fact #1 or detail #1

B. Supporting fact #2 or detail #2

V. Conclusion

A. Restate (briefly) main point (limited topic)

B. Restate (briefly) reasons/examples to support your limited topic (thesis statement)

## SUMMARY

\*NOTICE HOW YOUR FOCAL AREAS BECOME LETTERS "A", "B", AND "C" UNDER ROMAN NUMERAL "I.". NOTICE ALSO HOW LETTER "A" UNDER ROMAN NUMERAL "I." BECOMES ROMAN NUMERAL "II."; HOW LETTER "B" UNDER ROMAN NUMERAL "I." BECOMES ROMAN NUMERAL "III."; AND HOW LETTER "C" UNDER ROMAN NUMERAL "I." BECOMES ROMAN NUMERAL "IV.". THESE FOCAL AREAS BECOME THE BODY PARAGRAPHS OF YOUR ESSAY.

\*YOU CAN HAVE MORE THAN TWO FACTS OR DETAILS UNDER EACH ROMAN NUMERAL; THE MORE, THE BETTER; EACH ONE WILL BE ASSIGNED A NEW LETTER, BUT YOU ALWAYS BEGIN WITH AN "A" UNDER EACH ROMAN NUMERAL.

\*REMEMBER THAT A PARAGRAPH NEEDS TO HAVE A MINIMUM OF FIVE SENTENCES.

\*FINALLY, NOTICE HOW EVERY OUTLINE BEGINS WITH AN INTRODUCTION AND ENDS WITH A CONCLUSION. THESE AREAS ARE DIVIDED ACCORDING TO TWO RULES; THEY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. DUPLICATE RULE = IF YOU HAVE AN "A", THEN YOU MUST HAVE A "B". YOU CAN ALSO HAVE A "C" OR A "D", BUT IF THERE IS AN "A", THERE MUST ALSO BE A "B".
2. RULE OF PLURALITY = PLURAL WORDS (i.e. DOGS) MUST BE DIVIDED FURTHER; PLURAL CONCEPTS (i.e. FAMILY...MEANING MORE THAN ONE MEMBER) MUST ALSO BE DIVIDED FURTHER