

Making an Outline

The purpose of an outline is to create a brief, organized overview of how information is presented.

You can create an outline when preparing to write a paper or when taking notes on something written by someone else.

Outline rules:

1. Do not use complete sentences; be brief, but specific.
2. Place information into sections that are then divided and re-divided.
3. Never divide for just one item; there must be at least two things in each division.
4. For each new division, a new set of lettering or numbering is used (each followed by a period).
5. All divisions get indented more than the last one, and all divisions of the same degree should line up vertically.
6. In order the divisions are:
 - Capital Roman numerals (I, V, X, etc)
 - Capital letters (A, C, F, etc.)
 - Regular numbers (1, 4, 10, etc.)
 - Lower-case letters (a, d, g, etc.)
 - Lower-case Roman numerals (vi, ix, etc.)

Roman Numerals:

| | | | |
|-------|--------|---------|----------|
| 1—I | 6-VI | 11-XI | 16-XVI |
| 2—II | 7-VII | 12-XII | 17-XVII |
| 3-III | 8-VIII | 13-XIII | 18-XVIII |
| 4-IV | 9-IX | 14-XIV | 19-XIX |
| 5-V | 10-X | 15-XV | 20-XX |

Title

- I. First Subject
 - A. Section
 - B. Section
- II. Second Subject
 - A. Section
 - 1. Sub-section
 - 2. Sub-section
 - 3. Sub-section
 - B. Section
 - 1. Sub-section
 - a. Detail
 - b. Detail
 - 2. Sub-section
 - a. Detail
 - b. Detail
 - i. More info
 - ii. More info
 - c. Detail
 - C. Section
 - 1. Sub-section (detail)
 - 2. Sub-section
 - a. Detail
 - b. Detail
- III. Third Subject
- IV. Fourth Subject
 - A. Section
 - B. Section