

More on Topic/Transition/Linking Sentence Outlines

See [Coherence Guide](#) and [Using Quotes Guide](#)

A Topic/Transition/Linking Sentence comes in the first sentence of each body paragraph and DOES three things:

- 1) It gives a signal word (a transition telling the reader here is a primary support)
- 2) It reconnects with or restates the thesis
- 3) It presents the primary support (reason) to be focused on in that paragraph

Example Sentence Outline (color coded)

Essay Question: What is Hamlet's tragic flaw?

Thesis: Hamlet's tragic flaw is his cowardice.

1. First, I believe cowardice is Hamlet's tragic flaw because he wimps out in the face of the ghost.
2. Further evidence pointing to fear and lack of courage as Hamlet's tragic flaw can be seen in the way he delays his revenge by acting insane.
3. Finally, Hamlet's flaw is clearly cowardice because he fails to kill the King when he sees the King is guilty in the play within the play.

Troubleshooting Transition Sentences within Essays

Problematic Sentence Outline (extracted as-is from a draft)

Essay Question: Missing

Thesis: These rooms happen to be color coordinated the first room blue, purple, green, orange, white, violet, and black with red stained windows and all definitely hold some sort of symbolism to the story.

1. The plague spread across the country is called the red death because once individuals became ill their orifices would begin to bleed... .
2. The next room after the blue room is the Purple room.
3. After the purple room come the green room.
4. Following the green room happens to be the orange room.

...

Better Sentence Outline!!!

Essay Question: What does the symbolism of the seven rooms mean in "The Masque of Red Death?"

Thesis: The seven rooms together symbolize the stages of life.

1. First, I believe the rooms symbolize the stages of life because the first room's blue color represents birth.
2. Evidence that the rooms symbolize life stages can also be seen in the way the second room with its purple color represents adolescents.
3. In addition, the symbolic connection between the rooms and the stages of life is clearly apparent in the third room—the green room.
4. Furthermore, the rooms represent life because the stage of middle age with its strength and resilience is demonstrated in the orange of the fifth room.



Problematic Sentence Outline (extracted as-is from a draft)

Essay Question: What is the major theme of “The Lottery,” and what is Jackson attempting to reveal with it?

Thesis: I believe Jackson created a dark tradition portrayed in this story to lead the reader to analyze gruesome occurrences society has a way of normalizing.

1. For instance, people are intrigued with witnessing death.
2. Additionally, Jackson chose to set the story in a rural community where farming is a way of life and corn is the staple of their prosperity.
3. Furthermore, Jackson forces the reader to enter the story as a spectator.

Better Sentence Outline!!!

Essay Question: What is the major theme of “The Lottery?”

Thesis: I believe a major theme in “The Lottery” is its negative message against the evils of tradition.

1. First, the story criticizes tradition because it shows a town matter-of-factly following a tradition that sacrifices a person each year.
2. The story’s message against tradition can also be seen in the way the town’s people cling to the tradition out of fear.
3. Finally, I believe communicating the dangers of tradition is a major theme in “The Lottery” because we see how everyone joins in this inhuman act out of a herd mentality and bystander effect.

Problematic Sentence Outline (extracted as-is from a draft)

Essay Question: Not in the essay

Thesis: The narrator of the story could be a man of the town who happens to be explaining what happened to Miss Emily during her lifetime, and also the story of Homer’s corpse.

1. First, the narrator begins the story by describing Miss Emily’s funeral and the setting around it as if he is an attendee.
2. Second, as the story goes on, it is separated into different sections.
3. Next, as the story goes on, the timeline starts to tangle.
4. Finally, in Sniderman’s journal, he really broke down why he believed it was a townsman who was the role of the narrator by breaking it down into a court trial.

Better Sentence Outline!!!

Essay Question: Who could the narrator possibly be in “A Rose for Emily?”

Thesis: In my opinion, I believe the narrator is a person who lives in the town.

1. First, the narrator is shown to be a townsman because he describes Miss Emily’s funeral as if he attended it.
2. In addition, I believe the narrator is a member of the community because even when he speaks using the pronouns “we” and “they,” he represents the views of the town from a perspective only a townsman would possess.
3. Also, clues to the narrator’s identity being a townsman are found in the duplicitousness and unreliability in the narrator that connect to the town’s guilt over Miss Emily’s fate.
4. Finally, I believe the narrator is a townsman because only someone who lived in the town for a long time and knew Miss Emily could have known all the details he knew about her.





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