Model of *The Great Gatsby* Literary Analysis Sentence Outline

An **outline** is an organized list of details you plan to use in your writing. The details are listed from general to specific. In an outline, if you have an I, you must have at least a II. If you have an A, you must have at least a B, and so on. In a **sentence outline**, ideas are expressed in complete sentences. This type of essay is useful for longer writing assignments like reports, research papers, and formal essays. The more work you put into your sentence outline, the less work you will have in writing your essay.

I. Introduction
   A. **Hook** – Begin with a hook that exemplifies the theme of your whole essay.
   B. **Transition** – Link your hook to your thesis sentence and state the author and title of the literary work.
   D. **Thesis Statement** – Summarize the writing prompt that you chose on and include everything you plan to write about.

II. Supporting Body Paragraphs
   A. **Statement #1 to support structure of thesis sentence.**
      1. One general statement to support your topic sentence.
      2. Example (quote) from *text/critical essay* to support statement.
      3. Explanation of example from the text
      4. Second general statement to support your topic sentence
      5. Example (quote) from *text/critical essay* to support statement.
      6. Explanation of example from critical essay
      7. Concluding sentence that transitions to the next paragraph.
   B. **Statement #2 to support structure of thesis sentence.**
      1. One general statement to support your topic sentence.
      2. Example (quote) from *text/critical essay* to support statement.
      3. Explanation of example from the text
      4. Second general statement to support your topic sentence
      5. Example (quote) from *text/critical essay* to support statement.
      6. Explanation of example from critical essay
      7. Concluding sentence that transitions to the next paragraph.
   C. **Statement #3 to support structure of thesis sentence.**
      1. One general statement to support your topic sentence.
      2. Example (quote) from *text/critical essay* to support statement.
      3. Explanation of example from the text
      4. Second general statement to support your topic sentence
      5. Example (quote) from *text/critical essay* to support statement.
      6. Explanation of example from critical essay
      7. Concluding sentence that transitions to the next paragraph.
   D. Continue to follow the format of A – C to fully address your thesis sentence.

III. Concluding Paragraph
   A. Restate your thesis in different words. Be sure to use a transitional word such as *In conclusion, As you can see, Overall*, etc.
   B. Summarize each supporting paragraph.
   C. Comment on your opening quote and how it fits the entire theme of the essay.
Example of *The Great Gatsby* Literary Analysis Sentence Outline

I. Introduction
   A. I live in a large house that entertains many family and friends. I drive a car that takes me where I want to go. I am able to buy everything I need and occasionally spoil myself with something luxurious and expensive. I am married to my best friend and a man I can’t wait to spend the rest of my life with. Some may say that I am living the American Dream.
   B. Jay Gatsby in F. Scott Fitzgerald’s famous American novel *The Great Gatsby* strived for the same dream.
   C. Jay Gatsby’s American Dream was to win the heart of a woman named Daisy, but to do so he had to reinvent himself to claim the material success she demanded.

II. Supporting Body Paragraphs
   A. Jay Gatsby always knew he was suited for a better life, a life of wealth.
      1. Even as a child Gatsby wasn’t satisfied with his small town Minnesota life. He dreamt of bigger and more extravagant things than what his parents could provide for him.
      2. This can be seen in a schedule he created for himself on the inside of his childhood *Hopalong Cassidy* book where he lists such things as learning “elocution, poise and how to attain it” and to reading “one improving book or magazine a week” (173).
      3. Elocution, poise and self-improvement were not things necessary to a farm boy born to shady parents.
      4. In an attempt to escape his roots he found his way to St. Olaf Minnesota where he befriended a man by the name of Dan Cody, a millionaire, who took Gatsby under his wing and gave him a five year glimpse of the fine life Jay so desperately wanted.
      5. Cody was a “product of the Nevada silver fields, of the Yukon, of every rush for metal since seventy-five. The transactions in Montana copper that made him many times a millionaire found him physically robust…” (99).
      6. Cody literally had millions of dollars and shared his wealth with Gatsby until he died unexpectedly and left Gatsby with nothing.
      7. Even though Gatsby was left nothing from Dan Cody, his dream did not die.

III. As you can see, Jay Gatsby knew from an early age that he was more than a Minnesota farm boy. After meeting the young and rich Daisy Buchannon, he knew that he would have to do anything, including aligning with the infamous Meyer Wolfsheim, in order to gain the wealth needed to recapture Daisy’s heart. But what Gatsby failed to realize was that he was too wrapped up in his American Dream to notice that Daisy was not in love with him and never would be which resulted in his own demise.