

Example of an organized outline:

- 1) Main plot theme: Story and character setup, and conflict introduction
 - a) Introduce reader to your novel by drawing them into your fictional world
 - i) Who: characters involved
 - ii) What: reason, purpose
 - iii) Where: scenes
 - iv) When: timeline of events
 - v) Why: cause, motive
 - vi) How: by what means
 - b) A new prospect for the protagonist, or a dramatic event happens to change the life/lives of the main character(s)
 - i) Who: characters involved
 - ii) What: reason, purpose
 - iii) Where: scenes
 - iv) When: timeline of events
 - v) Why: cause, motive
 - vi) How: by what means
 - c) Protagonist faces tough decisions
 - i) Who: characters involved
 - ii) What: reason, purpose
 - iii) Where: scenes
 - iv) When: timeline of events
 - v) Why: cause, motive
 - vi) How: by what means
- 2) Main plot theme: A turning plot point in your novel—the protagonist has done, heard, found something to cause a rise in conflict.
 - a) Protagonist faces the consequences of his/her choices
 - i) Who: characters involved
 - ii) What: reason, purpose
 - iii) Where: scenes
 - iv) When: timeline of events
 - v) Why: cause, motive
 - vi) How: by what means
 - b) From this moment forward, the protagonist's life will never be the same due to the overwhelming obstacles he/she must overcome
 - i) Who: characters involved
 - ii) What: reason, purpose

- iii) Where: scenes
- iv) When: timeline of events
- v) Why: cause, motive
- vi) How: by what means
- c) Answers are just out of reach for the protagonist, setting the reader up to finally have the answers, yet keeping them out of reach
 - i) Who: characters involved
 - ii) What: reason, purpose
 - iii) Where: scenes
 - iv) When: timeline of events
 - v) Why: cause, motive
 - vi) How: by what means
- 3) Main plot theme: Protagonist makes a decision, or the conflict has been overcome, which will determine the ending
 - a) When everything seems like it will work out, protagonist faces a major setback or loss
 - i) Who: characters involved
 - ii) What: reason, purpose
 - iii) Where: scenes
 - iv) When: timeline of events
 - v) Why: cause, motive
 - vi) How: by what means
 - b) Final conflict arises
 - i) Who: characters involved
 - ii) What: reason, purpose
 - iii) Where: scenes
 - iv) When: timeline of events
 - v) Why: cause, motive
 - vi) How: by what means
 - c) Conflict resolution and aftermath
 - i) Who: characters involved
 - ii) What: reason, purpose
 - iii) Where: scenes
 - iv) When: timeline of events
 - v) Why: cause, motive
 - vi) How: by what means