EXAMPLE LOTF OUTLINES

**Directions: Read each of the following outlines and evaluate:**

1. **Does the Thesis include 1) the title and the author, 2) the specific devices that will be discussed, 3) a connection to a larger theme or idea?**
2. **Do the topic sentences state an ARGUMENT or a FACT?**
3. **Do the pieces of evidence support the argument, or just illustrate the fact of the topic sentence?**
4. **Do each paragraph seem to relate to and build on each other?**
   1. **Note: if you can flip paragraphs around and not change the paper at all, then the paragraphs do not build on each other.**

**Outline 1:**

Thematic Statement - In Lord of the Flies, William Golding uses Piggy’s glasses to represent clarity, logic, and rationality.  As the glasses become damaged and eventually broken, it shows mankind’s and society’s tendency to fall into a murky mess of chaos and irrationality, as it can never maintain periods of peace, calm, and rationality for long without conflict.

1. At the beginning of the story, the glasses are in pristine condition and are a symbol of Piggy’s intelligence and logical mind, as well as the remnants of the technology of the civilization the kids became separated from.
   1. At the beginning, the glasses are whole, and are used as a way to create fire, showing how they are a logical solution to a problem.
   2. The glasses also coincide with Piggy’s intelligence, as he is a logical person, hinting that the glasses are linked to such ideas.
   3. The glasses are also the only thing any of the kids have with them from their old lives, besides clothing, and act as a representation of the technology that they now lack.
2. Towards the middle of the story, Jack pushes Piggy and breaks a lens from his glasses, blinding Piggy in one eye, increasing tensions, as well as making it less clear where the power lays.
3. When the glasses are first damaged and a lens is lost, it is caused by an act of violence being taken against Piggy, with no good rationale behind it.
4. Losing a lens of the glasses also impairs Piggy’s vision, making it harder for him to see, or making everything less clear to him.
5. At this point in the book, a power struggle between Jack and Ralph becomes apparent, making the situation much more murky and inciting uncertainty in the other kids, as well as Ralph himself, as to what to do.
6. Near the end of the story, the glasses are broken completely, along with the conch, and represents the entire society falling apart, and a complete loss of clarity, logic, and rationality.  The majority of the kids have gone completely savage and are unconcerned with the effects of their actions.
   1. When the glasses are broken, Piggy becomes even more visually impaired, and can barely walk, showing a complete lack of clarity.
   2. In addition to this, when the glasses are broken, the savages are increasingly tribal, beating some children, chanting,
   3. Also, the savages light the whole island on fire, showing complete disregard for safety and their own well-being, as well as a distinct lack of rationality and logic.

**Outline 2:**

THESIS: Golding shows the building tension between the two group in three main parts such as, when the signal fire is let out while a boat is passing, when Jack leaves his group to create his own, and when the savages steal Piggy’s glasses to make their own fire.

1. The first essential moment in showing the build of tension between the civilized and savage group of boys, is when Jack and his group let the fire die out, causing a ship to pass by without a smoke signal to catch the boats attention and letting the boys miss the chance of being rescued.
   1. It shows the different intentions between both groups of boys.
      1. Jack is there to essentially let the boys have fun and hunt, while Ralph’s is to get everyone rescued.
   2. For example, Golding writes, “he took a step, and able at last to hit someone, stuck his fist into Piggy’s stomach” (Golding 71)
      1. This definitely shows the contrast between the civilized and savage, where Jack uses violence and Ralph almost ignores it.
   3. Ralph tried to hide or fight his anger with Jack.
      1. This is important because the contrast between civilized and savage handle situations such as anger, like shown, Jack uses violence and Ralph essentially tries to keep the peace and repress his anger, and move along.
2. Another important moment that showed the tensions between the two kinds of groups was when Jack decided to leave the civilized group.
   1. We really see the divide between the two kinds of groups because of the way Jack develops his savagery by using verbal disagreements.
   2. This builds to the competition between them and the groups.
   3. Ralph says, “The best thing we can do is get ourselves rescued” (pg. 53) this is then followed by, “I’m not going to be part of Ralph’s lot” which shows how Jack is unwilling to cooperate with the civilized group, and that he thinks hunting is just as important as getting rescued.
3. The last important part to the build of tension was when Jack and his group steal Piggy’s glasses from the other camp, so that they could start a fire to cook the meat that they had just hunted.
   1. This scene is crucial because it’s the first time we see just how savage the boys have become.
   2. How Piggy and Ralph would had handled the situation differently, asking for the glasses back rather than stealing them.
   3. This scene held importance to the novel because this was essentially the peak of the climax, showing the growing tension between the group of boys.

**Outline 3:**

THESIS: In *The* *Lord of the Flies*, William Golding uses allusions, symbols, and characterization of several characters to suggest the idea that within all men, there is an instinctual savagery that can only be held back by rules and consequences delivered by society.

1. The author uses many biblical allusions to prove his point that savagery is innate.
   1. Simon is a Christ figure.
      1. He is a carpenter when he builds the shelters (like Jesus)
      2. He feeds the children, helping the meek/those who cannot help themselves
      3. He wears a crown of thorns
      4. He knows the “truth” when everyone else is blinded by fear—he knows that the beast is “just us” and finds out the truth about the parachutist
      5. He is killed by those he is trying to help
   2. Jack is a Fallen angel, like Lucifer
      1. He was the head choir boy, suggesting his innocence
      2. He is a leader, but bows to the groups will when they choose Ralph
      3. He becomes tainted and obsessed with hunting
      4. He breaks off from the group by himself, but others soon follow him
      5. He gives a sacrifice to the “Lord of the Flies” or the devil, literally feeding the darkness
      6. He is violent and aggressive, eventually destroying the whole island in a hell-like conflagration
   3. The Island is the Garden of Eden
      1. It is beautiful, has a warm climate, and had perfect pools for bathing (like a baptism or a birth)
      2. There is a great deal of fruit on the island
      3. It is untouched and untainted by humans, until the boys show up
      4. The pigs were the temptation, like the “fruit” of the Garden of Eden story
2. There are many symbols used throughout the novel and each helps contribute to the idea that there is instinctual savagery in all people.
   1. The face paint that Jack uses represents the inner darkness in the hunters
      1. It conceals their human faces and distorts them
      2. It gives them freedom to commit savage acts (like torture the sow)
      3. At the end, Piggy says that he is afraid to face them when they are all “painted”, suggesting that he knows they will be different.
   2. The conch represents civilization and society’s rules
      1. It gives the boys power to speak in meetings
      2. It brings them together in the beginning
      3. It is fragile and eventually breaks, suggesting that society’s rules are fragile too
   3. Piggy’s glasses represent intellect and rational thinking
      1. They are used to start the fire
      2. They are the only link to the outside world because they are some thing man made
      3. They literally allow him to “see better”
      4. They get gradually broken over the course of the novel, which reflects the savage acts that take place in the novel
   4. The fire represents not only rescue and comfort, but also destruction.
      1. The signal fire is used to attract ships to save them
      2. It is something that they use for cooking and for warmth (like Samneric)
      3. It also kills the mulberry faced boy at the beginning, and destroys the island in the end.
3. Golding details the characters, allowing each of them to contribute to his overall meaning.
4. Ralph is characterized as a good-hearted leader of a democracy, but he still succumbs to savagery.
   * + He allows everyone a part in decision making
     + He builds shelters and tries to get everyone to work together
     + He is focused on keeping the fire lit so they can get rescued
     + Yet, he still participates in the killing of Simon
5. Piggy is characterized as the boy with all of the good ideas and who wants what’s best, but he is ignored. He still succumbs to savagery.
   * + He teaches Ralph how to use the conch
     + It was his idea to build the fire and the shelters
     + His glasses are used to start the fire.
     + He doesn’t do anything physical
     + He participates in killing Simon
6. Jack is characterized as savage and a leader of the hunters.
   * + He organized the hunters to kill the sow in a brutal way
     + He led the group chant that caused them to kill Simon
     + He literally created the Lord of the Flies by decapitating the pig and putting it on a stake
     + He burned down the island in the end.