Outlining

Creating an **outline** is an excellent way to organize your notes and a great first step to writing a report. Once you learn the basic format of outlining, you will be able to use it throughout your lifetime. An outline is about organizing from broad to specific. Under the title, begin with a broad category or idea. Indented below the broad idea is a more specific heading or a supporting detail. Depending on what you are outlining, there is no limit to the number of ideas or details that can be included. To be efficient, use phrases rather than sentences when outlining.

Here's an example of a very basic outline format:

Landforms (title)

- I. Oceans (Roman numeral identifies broad category)
 - A. Pacific largest (capital letters A & B label supporting details about main point)
 - B. Atlantic second largest (second supporting detail)
- II. Mountain Ranges (second broad category)
 - A. Himalayas (supporting detail for second category)
 - B. Karakoram (another supporting detail)
 - 1. holds largest glaciers (sub-point about the supporting detail)
 - 2. borders India (another sub-point)

III. Deserts (third broad category)

- A. Sahara largest (supporting detail)
- B. Atacama driest (second supporting detail)

(Note: This is just a beginning. There is no limit to the amount of detail an outline can have.)

The most general points begin at the left and use Roman numerals. The supporting details beneath the Roman numerals use capital letters. As details become more specific, the outline entry is indented further to the right. The outline format alternates number, letter, number with each indented level.

What is the purpose of an outline? 1.

3-8. Complete this partial outline. Use terms from the word bank.

mouth	brain	small intestine	heart	capillaries
stomach	veins	respiratory system	lungs	

Human Body Systems

I. Digestive System

A. _____

- 1. chewing breaks down food
- 2. swallowing moves food
- B. Esophagus
- *C*._____
- D. _____

II. Circulatory System

A. _____

B. Arteries

- 1. move blood away from the heart
- C. <u>1. carry blood to the heart</u>
- D. _____

III._____

- A. Nasal passage
- B. Trachea
- С. _____
- IV. Skeletal System
- V. Nervous System
 - A. Spinal Cord
 - B.
- 1. sends messages to all parts of the body
- C. Nerves

