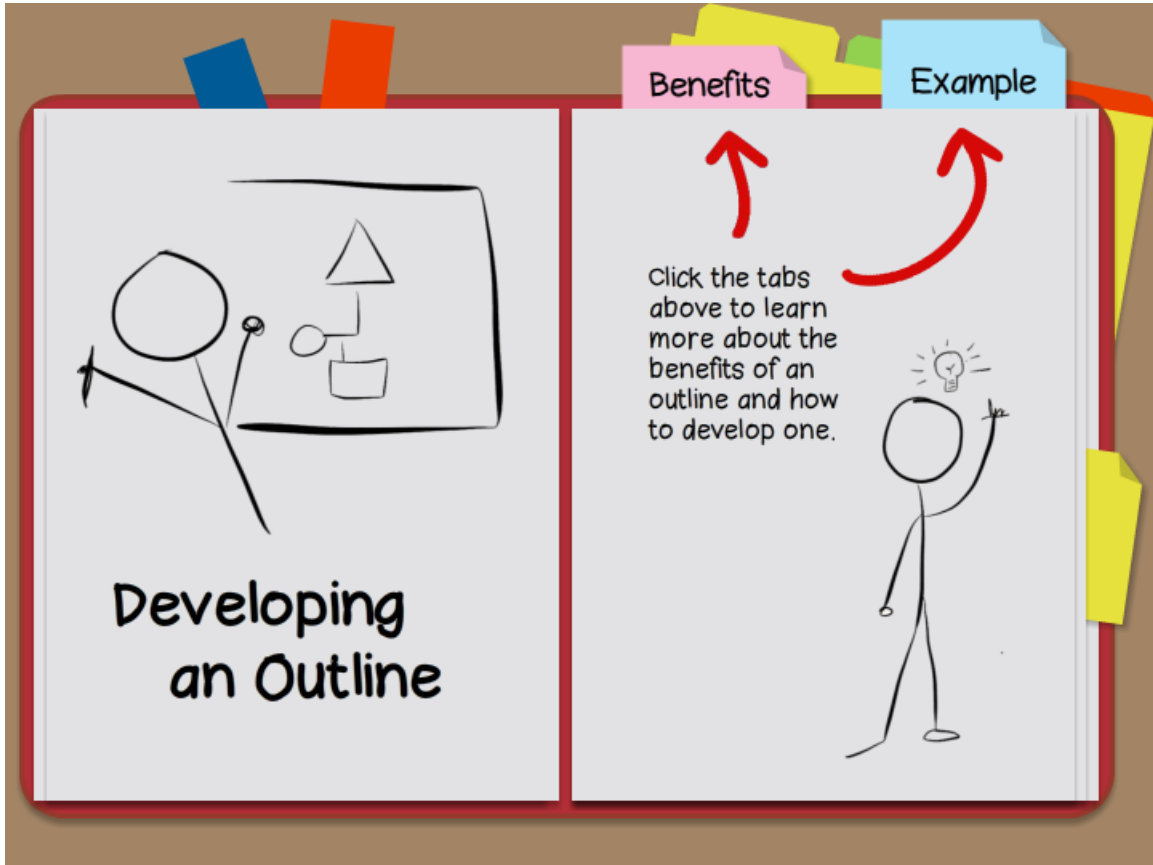


## Module 2: The Art of Persuasive Writing

### Topic 2 Content: Developing an Outline

#### Introduction

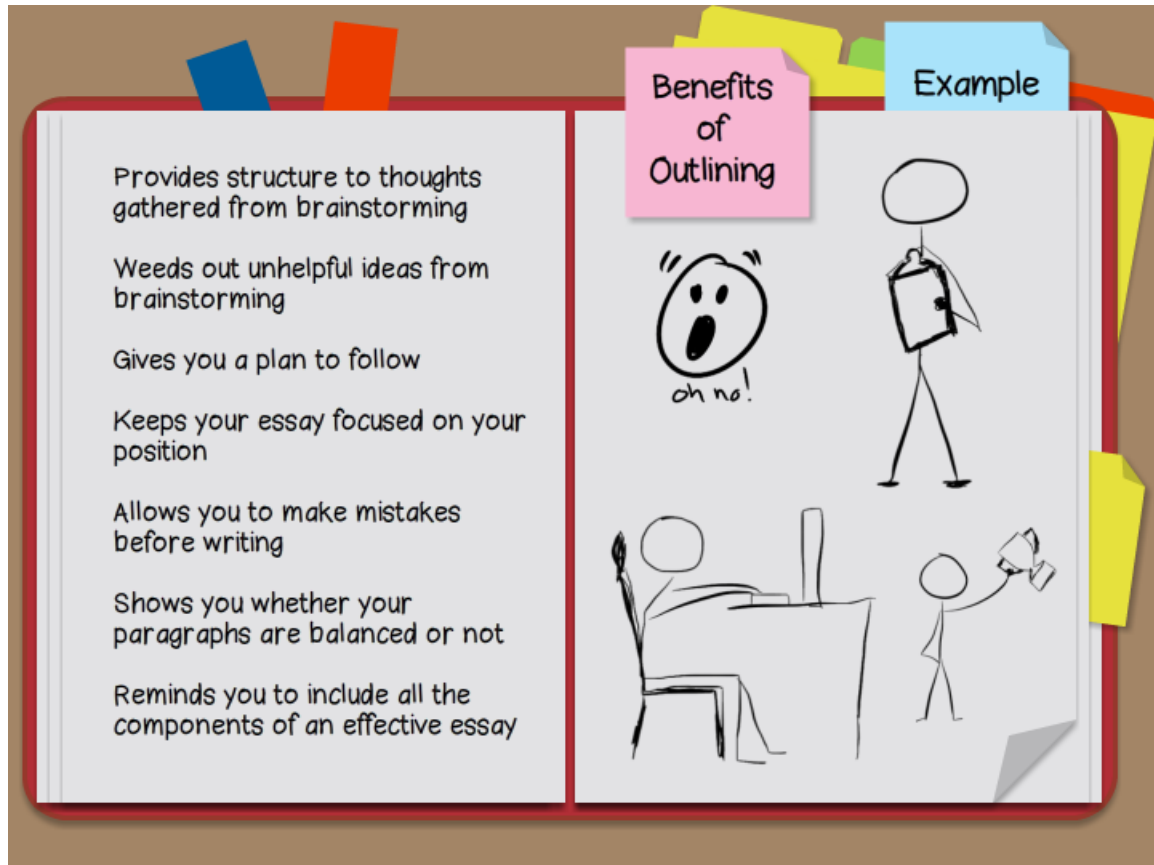


Click the tabs above to learn more about the benefits of an outline and how to develop one.

## Module 2: The Art of Persuasive Writing

### Topic 2 Content: Developing an Outline

#### Benefits of Outlining



Here are some of the many reasons why an outline can be a crucial tool in the writing process. An outline:

- Provides structure to thoughts gathered from brainstorming
- Weeds out unhelpful ideas from brainstorming
- Gives you a plan to follow
- Keeps your essay focused on your position
- Allows you to make mistakes before writing
- Shows you whether your paragraphs are balanced or not
- Reminds you to include all the components of an effective essay

Many students claim they jump straight into writing and only brainstorm, outline, or prewrite when required by a teacher. Some students even admit completing the outline *after* writing the essay just to fulfill a requirement. After reviewing all the benefits of outlining, why would you not take the time to plan?

All successful writers revise. Even the most famous, talented writers go through many drafts before publishing their final work. Starting with a strong plan can be the key to a successful persuasive essay.

## Module 2: The Art of Persuasive Writing

### Topic 2 Content: Developing an Outline

#### Example Outline

**Example Outline**

I. Introduction  
A. Thesis:

II. Body Paragraph One  
Topic Sentence  
A. Evidence  
B. Evidence  
C. Evidence

III. Body Paragraph Two  
Topic Sentence  
A. Evidence  
B. Evidence  
C. Evidence

IV. Body Paragraph Three  
Topic Sentence  
A. Evidence  
B. Evidence  
C. Evidence

V. Conclusion

Cell phones should be used in learning

- Students can look up answers easily
- Possible distractions during class
- Makes learning easier
- Audio/video capabilities
- Apprentices for note taking
- Everyone uses them anyway
- Prepares students for the real world

Drag the two reasons for supporting cell phone use in schools—which are highlighted in yellow—and drop them on the part of the outline that addresses the thesis in order to explore what kind of thesis can be drawn from this brainstorming session.

This outline template shows the basic structure and information you would need to fill in an outline for a five-paragraph essay. If your essay is going to have four paragraphs, your outline would exclude the third body paragraph section shown here. Likewise, if your essay is going to have six paragraphs, your outline would add a fourth body paragraph.

As you can see, an outline provides the thesis, the order of points, the topic sentences, an introduction and conclusion, and sufficient evidence for each point. Once you learn this "formula" for outlining, you can manipulate it for any essay you write. In fact, you can even add extra letters to provide more support. Even though you do not need to provide extra information for the conclusion in the outline, do not forget to write a conclusion paragraph during the drafting stage.

## Module 2: The Art of Persuasive Writing

### Topic 2 Content: Developing an Outline

#### Moving From Brainstorming to Outlining

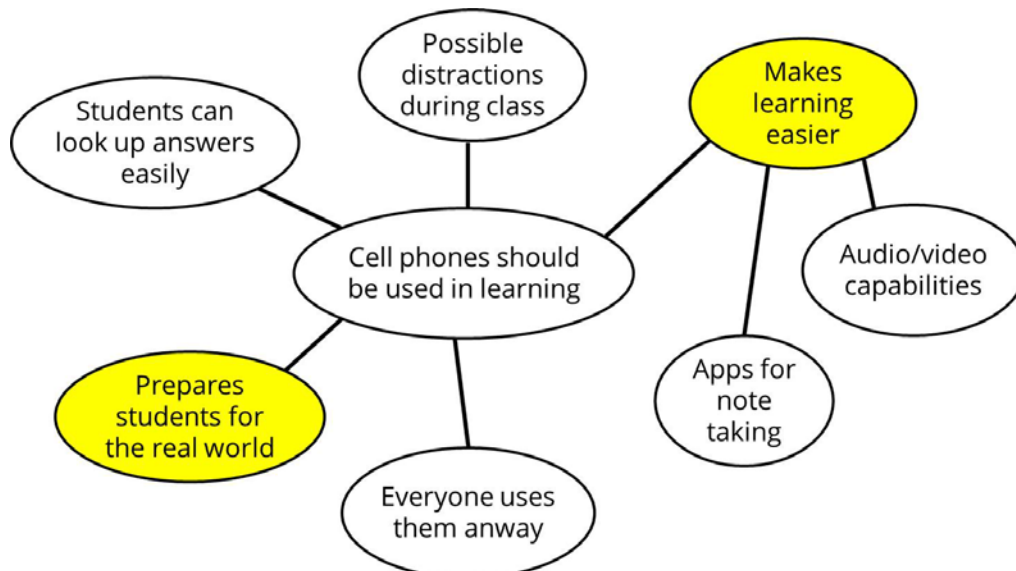
The image shows a digital workspace with a red folder. On the left is a writing outline, and on the right is a brainstorming web. A blue sticky note labeled 'Example Outline' is on the top right. The outline is as follows:

- I. Introduction
  - A. Thesis:
- II. Body Paragraph One
  - Topic Sentence
  - A. Evidence
  - B. Evidence
  - C. Evidence
- III. Body Paragraph Two
  - Topic Sentence
  - A. Evidence
  - B. Evidence
  - C. Evidence
- IV. Body Paragraph Three
  - Topic Sentence
  - A. Evidence
  - B. Evidence
  - C. Evidence
- V. Conclusion

The brainstorming web has a central node: 'Cell phones should be used in learning'. It branches into several nodes: 'Possible distractions during class', 'Students can look up answers easily', 'Prepares students for the real world' (highlighted in yellow), 'Everyone uses them anyway', 'Makes learning easier' (highlighted in yellow), 'Apps for note taking', and 'Audio/video capabilities'. A magnifying glass icon is next to the text below the web.

Drag the two reasons for supporting cell phone use in schools—which are highlighted in yellow—and drop them on the part of the outline that addresses the thesis in order to explore what kind of thesis can be drawn from this brainstorming session.

Here is a web from a brainstorming session about the use of cell phones in school. Drag the two reasons for supporting cell phone use in schools—which are highlighted in yellow—and drop them on the part of the outline that addresses the thesis in order to explore what kind of thesis can be drawn from this brainstorming session.



## Module 2: The Art of Persuasive Writing

### Topic 2 Content: Developing an Outline

#### The Topic Sentences of an Outline

**Example Outline**

I. Introduction  
**A. Thesis: Cell phones should be allowed in schools because they enhance the learning process and prepare students for real-world scenarios.**

II. Body Paragraph One  
**Cell phones enhance the learning process.**

A. Evidence

B. Evidence

C. Evidence

III. Body Paragraph Two  
**Using cell phones in school prepares students for real-world scenarios.**

A. Evidence

B. Evidence

C. Evidence

Click the Evidence sections of each body paragraph to fill out the outline.

This sample outline takes the information from the original web and provides a strong plan for a four-paragraph essay. Take some time to study this sample. Notice how the topic sentences of the body paragraphs relate back to the thesis statement; they even appear in the same order as they do in the thesis. Readers should not have to struggle to understand the organization of your essay. Instead, you want them to focus on your argument and strong evidence.

## Module 2: The Art of Persuasive Writing

### Topic 2 Content: Developing an Outline

#### Evidence of an Outline

I. Introduction  
**A. Thesis: Cell phones should be allowed in schools because they enhance the learning process and prepare students for real-world scenarios.**

II. Body Paragraph One  
**Cell phones enhance the learning process.**  
A. *Apps that assist with note taking*  
B. *Apps allow easy data collection for science labs*  
C. *Communication is more open between teachers and students*

III. Body Paragraph Two  
**Using cell phones in school prepares students for real-world scenarios.**  
A. *Setting allows students to learn skills in technology*  
B. *Many employers require ready availability*  
C. *Learn to balance cell phones' entertainment and function abilities before college or jobs*

IV. Conclusion  
Click the corner of the page to "flip" to the next section.

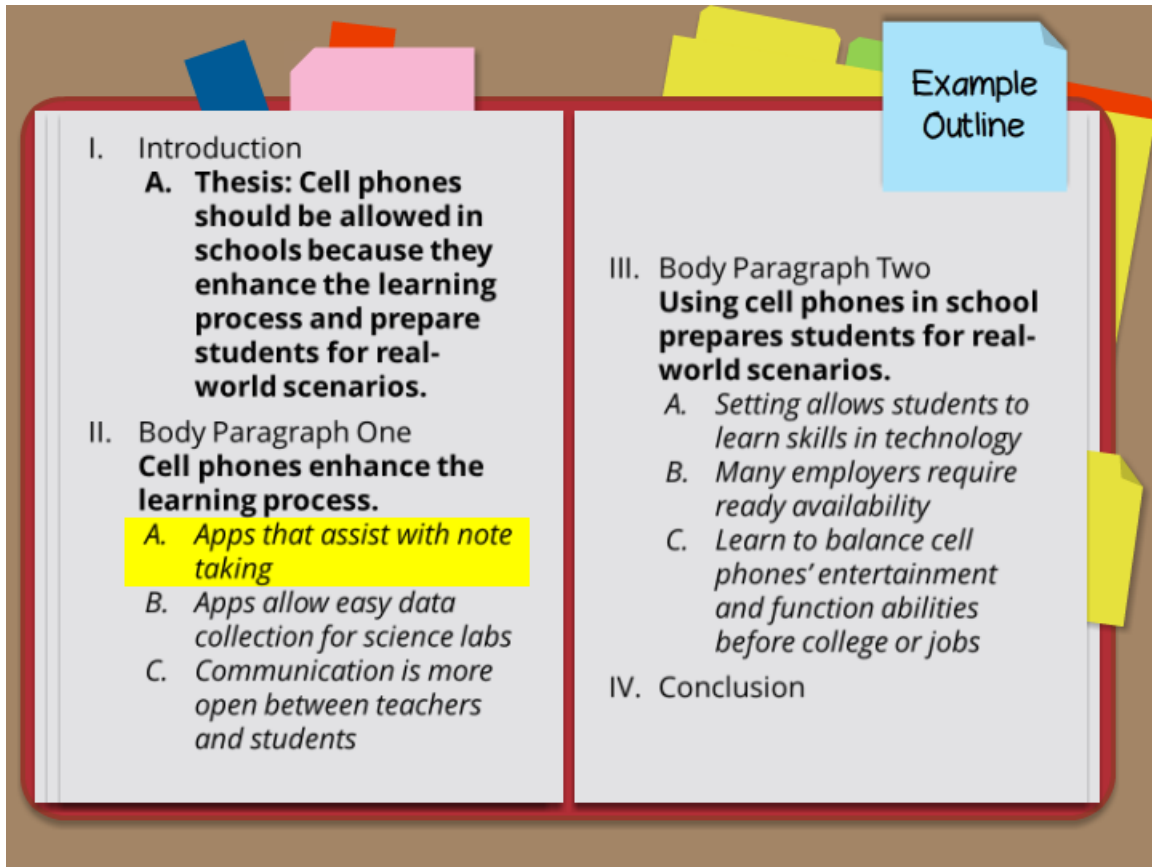
Click the Evidence sections of each body paragraph to fill out the outline.

- I. Introduction  
A. **Thesis: Cell phones should be allowed in schools because they enhance the learning process and prepare students for real-world scenarios.**
- II. Body Paragraph One  
**Cell phones enhance the learning process.**  
A. *Apps that assist with note taking*  
B. *Apps allow easy data collection for science labs*  
C. *Communication is more open between teachers and students*
- III. Body Paragraph Two  
**Using cell phones in school prepares students for real-world scenarios.**  
A. *Setting allows students to learn skills in technology*  
B. *Many employers require ready availability*  
C. *Learn to balance cell phones' entertainment and function abilities before college or jobs*
- IV. Conclusion

## Module 2: The Art of Persuasive Writing

### Topic 2 Content: Developing an Outline

#### The Outline as a Plan



Notice that an outline is not the same as a rough draft. Most of the points here are not even complete sentences. The outline truly is a plan; its design is to assist you during the planning and drafting stage of the writing process.