

Short Essay Outline

Here is an example of using a point form essay outline and then transitioning to writing sentences in an actual essay. Only the first paragraph is presented here.

Notice that because this is the introduction to the essay it contains a topic sentence AND the thesis statement for the entire essay.

Essay topic:

How Noel develops into a good father for Frankie;
from *Minding Frankie*, by Maeve Binchy

Thesis statement for the Essay:

Despite the fact that Noel had serious doubts about his abilities, he proved to be a very caring and capable father.

1st paragraph Outline:

Topic sentence:

In *Minding Frankie*, by Maeve Binchy, the main character Noel is suddenly thrust into the role of being a father, a role that he is unprepared for.

Supporting points

1. Former girlfriend is terminally ill and surprises him with the news that she is carrying his baby.
2. Noel is inherently self-absorbed and feels incapable
3. He is an alcoholic
4. Has support of family, friends, American cousin

1st Paragraph: Essay

In *Minding Frankie*, by Maeve Binchy, the main character Noel is suddenly thrust into the role of being a father, a role that he is unprepared for. Stella, a former flame is terminally ill and surprises him with the news that she is not only expecting his baby, but she plans to leave the baby in Noel's care when she dies. At the beginning of the story, Noel is a self-absorbed alcoholic who is completely unprepared for the challenges that parenthood will throw at him. Fortunately for Noel and Frankie, they have the support of his parents, the families of his childhood neighbourhood, his American cousin and college classmates, who prove to be invaluable resources. Despite the fact that Noel had serious doubts about his abilities, he proves to be a very caring and capable father.

Comment [wlc1]: This is the topic sentence

Comment [wlc2]: These sentences are based on the supporting points in the outline

Comment [wlc3]: This is the thesis statement for the essay. Readers will expect an essay that demonstrates how Noel comes to be a capable father.