**TOK Outline**

**General Problems**

Due to the quite chaotic nature of the „outlines“, that were submitted to me, we will have a fresh go. A proper plan is critical before writing the essay. The main problems were:

1. Title not explicitly answered in the first line. This is often because the students also do not know what to write, and therefore end up writing general bla bla, which no one wants to read.
2. Many parts do not answer the title question. The connection is might be in the head of the student, but the connection is not communicated on paper. Sometimes there is no connection at all, because the student did not know what to write, and wrote anything. In this case, it is better to save time and not write it at all.
3. There is no TOK Theory included
4. There are no AOKs, WOKs included
5. TOK Theory might be included, but it is not applied, just described what it is.
6. Examples are missing or were not from the different AOKs
7. Counter arguments are missing
8. Too much text!!! The “outlines” look like a rough draft. Impossible to give feedback.
9. Totally unclear paragraphing. One “paragraph” contains multiple topics and ideas, or they do not relate to the title.

**2. Example outline**

I have seen that several students have a problem understanding what an outline is, even though I explained it. Here is an example:

1. **Basic issue: students did not follow instructions**
2. A significant number of students did not submit the TOK outline on time.
   1. The deadline was on November 2nd
   2. Now it is November 9th, and still many are missing.
3. Those that submitted the outline, did not stick to the outline format, which I explained in class. The consequences are:
   1. This means, that it is impossible for me to give meaningful feedback
   2. The essay is likely to be chaotic and students will lose points.
   3. Students will have a difficult time writing the essay
      1. This is not Mr. Kim’s problem
      2. This shows that students evidently have too much free time, otherwise they would have done it properly right away and save time this way

**TOK Outline template: You can use this template if you want to. You can make modifications to it and change the structure. All OK, as long as you have a structure, answer the title, give relevant (!) examples, give counter examples and evaluate your claims. Also include and apply a bit of TOK theory.**

**Name of student:**

**Title of Essay (complete!!):**

**I. Introduction: In this essay I am going to show that…… I will use the Areas of Knowledge ….. and ….**

* AOK 1: Science (or whatever): Here you make your claim and show how the title question is answered based on AOK 1.
* AOK 1: However …. Here you give a counter argument to AOK 1
* AOK 2: History (or whatever): Here you make your claim and show how the title question is answered based on AOK2.
* AOK 1: However …. Here you give a counter argument to AOK 2

1. AOK 1: In the field of science (etc)….. Answer the title question here, as it relates to eg. Science

* Example: Give a supporting example, but keep it short
* What are some consequences of the claim, implications?
* Evaluate the claim.

1. AOK 1: However, in science it might be also argued that…. Give a limitation or counter claim to point I above

* Counter claim: Find an example, statement etc, that supports your counter claim.
* Evaluate the counter claim. Is it a big issue, a small one?

Do the same for AOK 2

**Name of student:**

**Title of essay (complete!):**

**Introduction: 1-2 line balanced answer to the title question**

In this essay I am going to show that…..

Do not generalize over whole AOKs. Do not say that in science it this and in arts it is that. Example: Do not say that in science is based entirely on reason and arts is based on emotions. Rather find examples, where reason and emotions are used in science and in arts. Keep the intro short. 7-10 lines max.

However…

Counter claims here!

Did you include: A balanced answer? The AOKs? Claims? Counter claims?

**Paragraph 1: AOK 1 or WOK 1**

In the field of AOK1/WOK1:

Answer the title question using AOK1/WOK1, make a claim.

Supporting example for AOK1/WOK1:

TOK theory applied for support:

Implications of the claim:

Think it to the end. What are the consequences of your claim?

**Paragraph 2: AOK 1 or WOK 1**

However, in the field of AOK1/WOK1….

Give a counter claim to paragraph 1.

Supporting example for the counter claim for AOK1/WOK1:

TOK theory applied for support:

Implications of the counter claim:

Think it to the end. What are the consequences of your counter claim?

**Paragraph 3: AOK 2 or WOK 2**

In the field of AOK2/WOK2:

Answer the title question using AOK1/WOK1, make a claim.

Supporting example for AOK2/WOK2:

TOK theory applied for support:

Implications of the claim:

Think it to the end. What are the consequences of your claim?

**Paragraph 4: AOK 2 or WOK 2**

However, in the field of AOK2/WOK2….

Give a counter claim to paragraph 1.

Supporting example for the counter claim for AOK2/WOK2:

TOK theory applied for support:

Implications of the counter claim:

Think it to the end. What are the consequences of your counter claim?

**Paragraph 5: The wider picture**

How do AOK1,2 and WOK1,2 relate to other AOK, WOKs? Similarities, differences?

**Paragraph 6: Conclusion**

No new information. Summarize your main points. Similar to the introduction.

**TOK CHECKLIST for the ESSAY**

**Read through the outline and cross out all parts that do not answer the title question. They do not count. They do not give you points. If the connection to the title question is not clear, or not stated, then it does not answer it and it has to be crossed out.**

**With the rest, do the following checklist:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| # |  | **YES** | **NO** |
| 1 | **Is correct outline format used?** See example above. There should not be large blocks of text. |  |  |
| 2 | **Is the title complete?** Read the prescribed title. The students should not forget about the second part (eg “evaluate this claim”, to what extent do you agree…”) |  |  |
| 3 | **Is the title question answered in the first line of the intro?** There should not be general blabla. |  |  |
| 4 | **Is the answer in the first line balanced?** It should not be a general yes or no answer. |  |  |
| 5 | **Does the into mention the different AOKs and WOKs?** It should make explicit reference to the TOK course. Most students say something like “I will use History and Math to show this point.” |  |  |
| 6 | **Does the intro mention HOW the different AOKs / WOKs play a role in answering the question?** Simply stating that you will use Arts and Math is not sufficient. What about arts, what about math? |  |  |
| 7 | **Is the outline structured?** |  |  |
| 8 | **Is TOK theory included?** |  |  |
| 9 | **Is TOK theory applied?** Simply summarizing it or explaining it is irrelevant. |  |  |
| 10 | **Is each paragraph about a specific claim, which answers directly the title question?** |  |  |
| 11 | **Does the essay include counter-claims?** |  |  |
| 12 | **Does the essay include (personal) examples for all claims?** |  |  |
| 13 | **Does the essay make the implications (=consequences) of the claims clear?** |  |  |
| 14 | **Are different WOKs included?** |  |  |

**Total points for YES \_\_\_\_ / 14**