

Outlining

Sentence Outline: Schema

- I. Thesis statement
- II. First claim
 - A. First supporting argument
 - B. Second supporting argument
 - 1. First illustrative quotation
 - 2. Second illustrative quotation
- III. Second claim
 - A. First supporting argument
 - B. ...
- IV. Conclusion

Sentence Outline: Example

- I. The wet landscape inhabited by monsters in *Beowulf* has explanations both in their Cainite ancestry and in folktale tradition.
- II. Landscape is part of the monsters' identities.
 - A. Grendel is frequently seen to travel to and from water landscapes.
 1. Quotation...
 - B. His mother has water epithets.
 1. Quotation...
- III. Previous scholars have pointed out a connection between wet landscape and Cainite ancestry.
 - A. Williams implies marine survival but then returns to the Chad narrative.
 - B. Mellinkoff points to a rabbinic tradition concerning marine survival.

Sentence Outline: Example

- IV. Marine survival of Cain's progeny may explain the water element in *Beowulf*.
 - A. Marine life is arguably exempt from the flood throughout Genesis.
 - B. Augustine confirms this.
 - 1. Quotation...
 - C. *Beowulf* seems to rely on the same understanding of the flood.
- V. Not all environmental features in the poem may be explained through theological interpretation; in these cases, folktale conventions should be considered.
 - A. The monsters are defined by night and darkness; these are common theological images, but are here better explained in terms of folktale convention.

Sentence Outline: Example

- VI. The same goes for the damp-landscape motif.
 - A. Alaric Hall has shown a specific landscape mapping existed for supernatural creatures, following which all landscape categories may be charted along the axes of economic value and perceived danger. Following the same, marshes have especially strong supernatural connotations.
 1. Maxims II
 2. Hrothgar's warning
 3. Bertold of Regensburg
- VII. Conclusion: The monstrous landscape of *Beowulf* has roots in at least the two traditions of biblical theology and folktale tradition.

Bibliography

Gibaldi, Joseph, ed. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 7th ed.
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