

What is a reverse outline?

A reverse outline is a tool used during the revision process to help writers see the structure and organization of their essay. By outlining what you have already written, you can:

- Evaluate Structure: Check the logical flow of your essay. How can
- Improve Clarity: Ensure each paragraph contributes to your thesis.
- Identify Gaps: Find areas that need more evidence or explanation.
- Refine Focus: Eliminate irrelevant or redundant information.

To create a reverse essay, approach your essay draft objectively, concisely summarize the main point of each paragraph in a few bullet points, and look for areas that need improvement in structure, clarity, and relevance.

Example Reverse Outline

1. Introduction

- Thesis: Fitzgerald uses symbolism to illustrate themes of the American Dream, class disparity, and moral decay.
 - **Thesis is clear and states the argument.**

2. Paragraph 1: The Green Light

- Evidence: Description and analysis of the green light.
 - **Revision idea: Need a stronger transition to the next paragraph and deeper analysis of symbolism.**

3. Paragraph 2: The Valley of Ashes

- Evidence: Symbolism of poverty and failure of the American Dream.
 - **Revision idea: Good evidence but could relate more to the overall theme. Relate the Valley of Ashes more to the overall theme of the American Dream.**

4. Paragraph 3: East Egg vs. West Egg

- Evidence: Symbolism of old money vs. new money.
 - **Revision idea: Provide more context on characters for East Egg vs. West Egg.**

5. Paragraph 4: The Eyes of Dr. T.J. Eckleburg

- Evidence: Loss of moral values.
 - **Revision idea: Add more examples to the analysis of Dr. T.J. Eckleburg's eyes.**

6. Conclusion

- Restate thesis and summarize key points.
 - **Revision idea: Emphasize the broader implications of the symbols in the conclusion.**