

Lesson 4: Practice Outlines - Form & Margin Alignment

Straight Margin Rule: Be very particular about form! Use a straight edge (ruler) to guide placement of Roman numerals and first letters. Keep your left margin straight—don't let your outline get a bad case of the “*slants*”!

✓ LIKE THIS

TITLE
I. Topic 1
II. Topic 2
III. Topic 3

✗ THE SLANTS

TITLE
I. Topic 1
II. Topic 2
III. Topic 3

DIRECTIONS Read ALL 24 items in the Word Bank first. Select the **4 main titles** and write each on a title line below. Then group the related main topics under each title opposite the Roman numerals. Maintain a straight left margin alignment. Cross off each word as you use it.

WORD BANK (24 ITEMS)

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| ☐ Continents | ☐ Huron | ☐ Wars | ☐ Africa |
| ☐ Great Lakes | ☐ Apache | ☐ Michigan | ☐ Civil |
| ☐ Europe | ☐ World War I | ☐ Superior | ☐ Asia |
| ☐ Blackfoot | ☐ Erie | ☐ Sioux | ☐ Ontario |
| ☐ Antarctica | ☐ Revolutionary | ☐ South America | ☐ Comanche |
| ☐ Australia | ☐ World War II | ☐ North America | ☐ Plains Indians |

TITLE 1:

- I. _____
- II. _____
- III. _____
- IV. _____
- V. _____
- VI. _____
- VII. _____

TITLE 2:

- I. _____
- II. _____
- III. _____
- IV. _____
- V. _____

TITLE 3:

- I. _____
- II. _____
- III. _____
- IV. _____

TITLE 4:

- I. _____
- II. _____
- III. _____
- IV. _____

COMPLETE OUTLINE SOLUTIONS (24 PTS TOTAL: 4 PTS TITLES + 20 PTS MAIN TOPICS)

Continents (7)

- I. Africa
- II. Antarctica
- III. Asia
- IV. Australia
- V. Europe
- VI. North America
- VII. South America

Great Lakes (5)

- I. Erie
- II. Huron
- III. Michigan
- IV. Ontario
- V. Superior

Wars (4)

- I. Civil
- II. Revolutionary
- III. World War I
- IV. World War II

Plains Indians (4)

- I. Apache
- II. Blackfoot
- III. Comanche
- IV. Sioux

Pedagogical Form Requirement: Emphasize left margin alignment. Roman numerals (I, II, III...) must be aligned vertically on their periods, and the first letter of each topic must start on an identical vertical plumb line. Accept any internal item order (alphabetical, geographical, or chronological).

 SPATIAL ORGANIZATION & VISUAL GRAMMAR**The Role of Spatial Cleanliness in Outlines:**

- **The "Slants" Hazard:** When students drift their left margin to the right, it disrupts coordinate cognitive weighting, causing equal topics to look subordinate.
- **Schema Discrimination:** Students must discern between geographic landmasses (*Continents*), bodies of water (*Great Lakes*), conflicts (*Wars*), and indigenous nations (*Plains Indians*).

 DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION STRATEGIES**Tier 1 / Tier 2 Scaffolding (Struggling Learners & ELs):**

- **Ruler Demonstration:** Have students place a 12-inch physical ruler vertically against the Roman numerals before writing.
- **HOMES Mnemonic:** Teach the classic acronym *H-O-M-E-S* (Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie, Superior) for the Great Lakes.

Tier 3 / Extension (Gifted & Advanced):

- Challenge students to add subtopics (capital letters A, B) under Wars with specific historical battle names.

 DIAGNOSTIC GUIDE: COMMON STUDENT MISCONCEPTIONS & INTERVENTION PROMPTS

Common Misconception	Underlying Cognitive Trap	Teacher Intervention Prompt
Selecting "North America" as a Title instead of "Continents"	Mistaking a prominent exemplar continent for the overarching category title.	"Can Europe or Africa be called 'North America'? No! But can Europe, Africa, and North America all be called 'Continents'? Yes!"
Grouping "Michigan" or "Superior" under Continents	Associating geographic proper nouns without separating lakes from landmasses.	"Is Lake Superior a giant body of water or a whole continent like South America? Look for the 'Great Lakes' title!"
Confusing Historical Conflicts ("Civil", "Revolutionary")	Seeing the standalone adjectives without attaching the implied noun "War".	"When we say 'The Civil' or 'The Revolutionary', what major events are we naming? The Civil War and the Revolutionary War!"

 STANDARDIZED ASSESSMENT & SCORING RUBRIC (TOTAL: 24 POINTS)

Criteria	Performance Description	Scoring Guide	Max Pts
Title Identification	Correctly identifies the 4 broad titles (Continents, Great Lakes, Wars, Plains Indians).	1 point per correct title (4 titles)	4 pts
Continents Outline	Correctly places all 7 continents under Continents opposite I–VII.	1 point per correctly placed continent (7 items)	7 pts
Great Lakes Outline	Correctly places all 5 Great Lakes (Erie, Huron, Michigan, Ontario, Superior) opposite I–V.	1 point per correctly placed lake (5 items)	5 pts
Wars & Plains Indians	Correctly places 4 wars and 4 Native American nations under their matching titles.	1 point per correctly placed item (8 items)	8 pts