



Messenger University
Writing Made Simple
Spring, 2022

Writing Made Simple: Lesson 1 Activation

Discover the Outlines in Some of Your Favorite Books

Activity:

Over the next week, take a bit of time to do some light research about book outlines by examining some books from your own library!

Here are a few ideas to help guide your research:

- Skim over your favorite books—can you see the basic outline? Do you notice the “bones” of the book?
- Look at the Table of Contents. How many chapters are there? Can you see the natural progression from key idea to key idea? What were the author’s starting point and ending goal?
- Did the author take you on a logical journey? Why, or why not?
- Pay close attention to how the author utilizes headings, text breaks, pull quotes, etc.
- Does the author have consistent introductions, conclusions, and activations in each chapter?

Reflection:

What did you discover about the structure and organization of these books from your own bookshelf?

After taking this closer look, can you see the results of the author’s outlining process?