

## **Analytical Essay Outline Example (Filled In)**

Here's what the template looks like with actual content—a literary analysis of *The Great Gatsby*:

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

- A. Hook: "The American Dream promises success through hard work—but what happens when that dream becomes an obsession?"
- B. Context: In *The Great Gatsby*, Fitzgerald explores 1920s excess through Jay Gatsby's pursuit of wealth and status.
- C. Thesis: Fitzgerald uses Gatsby's downfall to critique the American Dream, showing how wealth pursuit corrupts authentic connection.

### **II. BODY PARAGRAPH 1**

- A. Topic: Gatsby's wealth is built on illusion and crime
- B. Evidence: "He and this Wolfshiem bought up side-street drug stores..."
- C. Analysis: The source of Gatsby's fortune undermines the meritocracy myth central to the American Dream. His wealth doesn't represent hard work—it represents moral compromise.
- D. Transition: This corruption extends to his relationships.

### **III. BODY PARAGRAPH 2**

- A. Topic: Gatsby's love for Daisy is transactional, not authentic
- B. Evidence: "Her voice is full of money"
- C. Analysis: This equation of Daisy with money reveals Gatsby confuses economic value with human worth. He can't distinguish between loving Daisy and loving what she represents.
- D. Transition: This confusion proves fatal.

[Continue for Body 3 and Conclusion...]