



## Inside Outline Exercise

Adapted from [Blueprint for a Book](#) by Jennie Nash

Dear Author,

You may find this exercise difficult at first. In fact, it will likely take you longer to form a solid inside outline than it does to actually write the book. But if you can push yourself to complete this exercise, you will save yourself time, frustration, and intense rewrites as you develop a solid story that pairs plot with point for a novel that will truly resonate with your reader. As an added bonus, you can expand on this tool to develop a fully detailed outline, refer to it when performing your revisions, or even use it as a guide to write your synopsis, blurb, or query letter.

I highly recommend reading the following Tips for writers articles and completing their included exercises *before* beginning, as they will assist you in creating your inside outline: [Character-Driven Plot](#), [Crafting Effective Opening & Closing Scenes](#), and [Cause-&-Effect Trajectory](#).

### The Rules

1. Use standard [Manuscript Formatting](#) (1-inch margins, Times Roman 12-point font, single line spacing, one hard return between pairings).
2. Be concise. Each bullet point must be no more than three lines and your outline must be no longer than three pages total.
3. Pair plot (what happens) with point (why it matters) for each event (13 - 22 total events).
4. Each pairing/event must lead to the next one in a cause-and-effect trajectory.

For more information, read my [Tips for writers](#) article titled [Pairing Plot with Point](#).

Your editor,

*Mandi Summit*  
*Red Quill Editorial LLC*

*PS:* when you're ready for editing, [let's Discuss Your Manuscript](#) and secure your spot on Red Quill Editorial's calendar!



# Inside Outline

## Opening Event - Event 1

- Plot: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Point: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Because of that . . .*

## Event 2

- Plot: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Point: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Because of that . . .*

## Event 3

- Plot: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Point: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Because of that . . .*

## Event 4

- Plot: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Point: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



*Because of that . . .*

Event 5

- Plot: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Point: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Because of that . . .*

Event 6

- Plot: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Point: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Because of that . . .*

Event 7

- Plot: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Point: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Because of that . . .*

Event 8

- Plot: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Point: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



*Because of that . . .*

Event 9

- Plot: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Point: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Because of that . . .*

Event 10

- Plot: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Point: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Because of that . . .*

Event 11

- Plot: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Point: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Because of that . . .*

Event 12

- Plot: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Point: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



*Because of that . . .*

Event 13

- Plot: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Point: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Because of that . . .*

Event 14

- Plot: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Point: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Because of that . . .*

Event 15

- Plot: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Point: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Because of that . . .*

Event 16

- Plot: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Point: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



*Because of that . . .*

Event 17

- Plot: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Point: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Because of that . . .*

Event 18

- Plot: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Point: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Because of that . . .*

Event 19

- Plot: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Point: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Because of that . . .*

Event 20

- Plot: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Point: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



*Because of that . . .*

Event 21

- Plot: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Point: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Because of that . . .*

Closing Event - Event 22

- Plot: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Point: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*THE END.*