**An Essay Outline Primer**

(adapted from Liza Escott, E.O.Smith)

When writing an essay outline it is important to remember that your aim is to give yourself a direction for exploration after having decided on a topic, and started to research the idea both within as well as beyond the class texts.

Keeping this in mind, be sure to include the following in the outline you submit for peer/teacher conferencing.

**10 points each:**

* The main idea you are exploring
* An essential question that you intend to answer (include the word “why” or “how” in the question – question may change slightly as you research – this is your “thesis”)
* A logical structuring or order of argument you have planned (this may change)
* Specific sections of the course text that relate directly to the main idea (chapters and/or pages)
* Possible quotes from the course text to be included (page numbers included)
* Specific areas/examples beyond the course text that you have already researched and found evidence for
* Works cited – for outside texts you have read and may include
* Questions you have in terms of what you may be finding challenging at this point of your research