

The outline is the plan of your essay. It includes the thesis statement, the main parts of the essay (I, II, III), subdivisions of the parts (A, B, C) and more specific details and examples (1, 2, 3). The introduction and conclusion paragraphs are not included in the outline, only the body. For the exam, you can bring one A4 paper with your outline on one side and your list of sources (Bibliography) on the other.

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American Culture  
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**Langston Hughes: The Harlem Renaissance and African American Culture**

**Thesis Statement:** Langston Hughes was an important poet who used African American culture as the center of his writing and influenced others who followed.

I. Hughes' early life helped to form his interest in becoming a poet.

- A. Birth, early life, and education
- B. His mother's influence and school writing achievements
- C. His travels abroad and experience: In Mexico, Africa and China
- D. In Harlem: His first book

II. Hughes played an important role in the Harlem Renaissance, the rebirth of African American culture in the 1920s, using African American language and culture in his poetry.

- A. About the Harlem Renaissance
- B. African American culture and history as influences
  - 1. African American dialect (English)
  - 2. African American history and experience
  - 3. Musical characteristics of his poetry: jazz and blues

III. Two important themes in Hughes writings are a strong sense of racial pride and the desire for an end to racism in the US.

- A. Racial pride: "The Negro Speaks of Rivers"
- B. An end to racism: "Dream Deferred"
- C. Hughes' importance in American literature

**Bibliography**

"Langston Hughes, 1902-1967." *The Poetry Foundation*. 2013. Viewed on 12 Dec. 2013. Web.

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"Langston Hughes." The Harlem Project. n.d. Viewed on 27 Nov. 2013. Web.

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