

Writing Formal Outlines – Practice 1

Name _____

Date _____ Period _____

PART I: Imagine that you are writing an essay on the topic of pet pigs. You started to make a topic outline but left some parts out. Fill in the blank spaces in the outline with the ideas listed below.

Inability to provide protection

Enjoyment of games

Swimming

Climbing stairs

Ease of housebreaking

Cleanliness

The Best Pets are Pigs

I. Benefits

A. Characteristics

1. _____

2. _____

3. Lack of fur and fleas

4. Friendliness

B. _____

1. Fetching

2. _____

3. Rolling over

4. _____

II. Drawbacks

A. Playfulness

B. _____

PART II: Imagine you have gathered information for a report on “Quicksand.” Now you are ready to write your formal sentence outline. Write the following sentences where they belong in the outline.

People can survive quicksand.

There are ways of avoiding quicksand.

Quicksand cannot exist in swiftly running water.

Quicksand is wet, separated grains of floating sand that are unable to support weight.

“Floating” on your back and stretching out your arms could save your life.

Quicksand

I. What is quicksand?

A.

B. Quicksand usually covers a small area over a shallow spring or under water near a riverbank.

II. _____

A. The ground can be tested with long poles to see if it is solid.

B. The edges of the quicksand can be found by stamping on the ground.

C. Certain clues indicate places where quicksand does not exist.

1. Sand with clay in it can probably support weight.

2. _____

III. _____

A.

B. Rolling across the top of the sand might take you to safety.

C. Rescuers can place supporting items on the sand and gently pull the victim to safety.