

# Lesson A. Study Skills: Outline First Paragraph With Writing Boxes

When you write from a given source (either one that you find or one that your Character Ink book provides for you), you want to write the material in your own words.

You do not want to use the words that the original author wrote because that is plagiarism—stealing someone else’s words and calling them your words.

So anytime you get information from a source, whether it is a book, online source, magazine, or other, it is important to use the information in such a way that you write in your own words—not in the author’s words.

How can you write from a source but still make it your own?

There are two important tips to remember in using sources in writing:

**(1) Always outline before you write!**

- a. The outline will take you one step away from the source when you write your own report or essay.
- b. Each step that you take away from the source when you write helps you write more originally.

**(2) Choose synonyms (words that mean the same) for the words in the original source—rather than using the author’s exact words.**

We will work on those two steps extensively in this lesson. We will use a simple, short passage of material about *Dumbo* in which to practice these skills.

And you will be creating outlines and writing like a pro by the end of the first week!

Read the entire *Dumbo* passage aloud with your teacher or to yourself to get an idea of what you will be writing about this week.

<> **A-1a.** In the first sentence of the first paragraph that is provided by itself below, highlight the following words:

- 1. elephant    2. delighted
- 3. baby        4. born

***The circus elephants were delighted when a new baby was born.***

These four words are the most important words in the sentence.

They are also words you will want to change when you write the sentence in your own words. This is because they are so important to the sentence, and the author chose those himself.

<> **A-1b.** Choose at least three to five synonyms or substitute words for the words you just highlighted in the sentence. Write the synonyms on the lines below in the columns.

<u>elephants</u>	<u>delighted</u>	<u>baby</u>	<u>born</u>
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_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

<> **A-1c.** Once you have at least three to five synonyms, choose the one you think sounds like the best substitute for each of the original words and highlight each one you choose.

<> **A-1d.** Write a new sentence from the given one with your new words (highlighted above).

Paragraph 1: Sentence One

_____
_____
_____

<> **A-2a.** Now repeat that process by highlighting the four most important nouns, pronouns, and verbs in the next sentence from the passage (provided below).

***They all were amazed  
by his huge ears.***

<> **A-2b.** Write those words on the top line in the following columns and underline them with a highlighter.

<> **A-2c.** Choose at least three to five synonyms or substitute words for the words you've listed and underlined. Write the synonyms on the lines below in the columns.

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

<> **A-2d.** Once you have at least three to five synonyms, choose the one you think sounds like the best substitute for each of the original words and highlight each one you choose.

<> **A-2e.** Write a new sentence from the given one with your new words (highlighted above).

Paragraph 1: Sentence Two

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

<> **A-3a.** Now repeat that process by highlighting the four most important nouns, pronouns, and verbs in the next sentence from the passage (provided below).

***They thought he would grow to be gigantic.***

<> **A-3b.** Write those words on the top line in the following columns.

<> **A-3c.** Choose at least three to five synonyms or substitute words for the words you've listed and underlined. Write the synonyms on the lines below in the columns.

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

<> **A-3d.** Once you have at least three to five synonyms, choose the one you think sounds like the best substitute for each of the original words and highlight each one you choose.

<> **A-3e.** Write a new sentence from the given one with your new words (highlighted above).

Paragraph 1: Sentence Three

_____
_____
_____

<> **A-4a.** Now repeat that process by highlighting the four most important words in the fourth sentence of the passage (provided below).

***The other baby animals grew, but only Jumbo's ears expanded.***

<> **A-4b.** Write those words on the top line in the following columns.

<> **A-4c.** Choose at least three to five synonyms or substitute words for the words you've listed and underlined. Write the synonyms on the lines below in the columns.

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

<> **A-4d.** Once you have at least three to five synonyms, choose the one you think sounds like the best substitute for each of the original words and highlight each one you choose.

<> **A-4e.** Write a new sentence from the given one with your new words (highlighted above).

Paragraph 1: Sentence Four

_____
_____
_____

<> **A-5a.** Now repeat that process by highlighting the four most important words in the fifth sentence from the passage (provided below).

***This made Jumbo and his mother unhappy.***

<> **A-5b.** Write those words on the top line in the following columns.

<> **A-5c.** Choose at least three to five synonyms or substitute words for the words you've listed and underlined. Write the synonyms on the lines below in the columns.

<> **A-5d.** Once you have at least three to five synonyms, choose the one you think sounds like the best substitute for each of the original words and highlight each one you choose.

<> **A-5e.** Write a new sentence from the given one with your new words (highlighted above).

Paragraph 1: Sentence Five

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<> **A-6.** Write all of your final sentences from each page of Lesson A on the lines provided as one complete paragraph.

Lined writing area consisting of 30 horizontal lines for student response.

### Sample of Paragraph One

The circus pachyderms were thrilled when a new young one was birthed. The animals, as a whole, were astonished by his huge hearing appendages. The elephants concluded that Jumbo would mature to be gigantic. The other young mammals filled out, but only Jumbo's ears broadened. This caused the youngster and his parent to be miserable.

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## Writing Boxes Sample First Paragraph

<p>&lt;&gt; <b>A-1a.</b> Highlight words</p> <p>The circus <b>elephants</b> were <b>delighted</b> when a new <b>baby</b> was <b>born</b> .</p>	<p>&lt;&gt; <b>A-1b. &amp; 1c.</b> Synonyms or substitute words for the words in the sentence</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>elephants</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>delighted</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>baby</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>born</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>animals</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>thrilled</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>infant</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>birthed</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>creatures</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>excited</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>young one</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>delivered</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>pachyderms</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>ecstatic</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>elephant</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>produced</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>tuskers</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>pleased</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>child</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>conceived</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>mammoths</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>elated</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>babe</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>introduced</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>beasts</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>overjoyed</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>youngster</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>brought into the world</u></td> </tr> </table>	<b>elephants</b>	<b>delighted</b>	<b>baby</b>	<b>born</b>	<u>animals</u>	<u>thrilled</u>	<u>infant</u>	<u>birthed</u>	<u>creatures</u>	<u>excited</u>	<u>young one</u>	<u>delivered</u>	<u>pachyderms</u>	<u>ecstatic</u>	<u>elephant</u>	<u>produced</u>	<u>tuskers</u>	<u>pleased</u>	<u>child</u>	<u>conceived</u>	<u>mammoths</u>	<u>elated</u>	<u>babe</u>	<u>introduced</u>	<u>beasts</u>	<u>overjoyed</u>	<u>youngster</u>	<u>brought into the world</u>
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Writing Boxes Sample First Paragraph (continued)

<> A-4a. Highlight words

The other **baby** **animals** **grew**,  
but only Jumbo's ears **expanded**.

<> A-4e. New sentence

The other young mammals filled out, but only Jumbo's ears expanded.

<> A-4b. & 4c. Synonyms or substitute words for the words in the sentence

<u>baby</u>	<u>animals</u>	<u>grew</u>	<u>expanded</u>
<u>new</u>	<u>creatures</u>	<u>filled out</u>	<u>broadened</u>
<u>tiny</u>	<u>mammals</u>	<u>developed</u>	<u>grew</u>
<u>minature</u>	<u>beasts</u>	<u>matured</u>	<u>developed</u>
<u>young</u>	<u>performers</u>	<u>expanded</u>	<u>filled out</u>
<u>newborn</u>	<u>living things</u>	<u>broadened</u>	<u>widened</u>
<u>immature</u>	<u>vertebrates</u>	<u>widened</u>	<u>matured</u>

<> A-5a. Highlight words

This **made** **Jumbo** and his  
**mother** **unhappy**.

<> A-5e. New sentence

This caused the youngster and his parent to be miserable.

<> A-5b. & 5c. Synonyms or substitute words for the words in the sentence

<u>made</u>	<u>Jumbo</u>	<u>mother</u>	<u>unhappy</u>
<u>forced</u>	<u>the youngster</u>	<u>guardian</u>	<u>miserable</u>
<u>created</u>	<u>the elephant</u>	<u>mom</u>	<u>sad</u>
<u>shaped</u>	<u>the young one</u>	<u>parent</u>	<u>distressed</u>
<u>caused</u>	<u>the child</u>	<u>child-bearer</u>	<u>depressed</u>
<u>induced</u>	<u>the kid</u>	<u>progenitor</u>	<u>troubled</u>
<u>obliged</u>	<u>the newbie</u>		<u>sorrowful</u>