# Full Sentence Outline Example (FSO)

Student Name

Professor Rowe

COMM 203 -599

Sep 1, 2021

Specific Purpose: To inform my classmates about the pothos plant that brings me joy because I think that my sweet grandmother and her kind words might be as uplifting to my classmates as they were for me.

Thesis: My inherited love for plants has helped me understand what personal growth and self-care look like.

Just a Little Bit More Sunshine

INTRODUCTION

1. (Attention-getter) Currently tracing the walls of my kitchen is a Pothos plant, which, at last measurement, was six feet long in places. A Pothos plant is a trailing vine with heart-shaped leaves. If you’ve seen someone with a plant growing across walls inside, it was likely a pothos. This particular plant is really special to me though.
2. (Thesis) My inherited love for plants has helped me understand what personal growth and self-care look like.
3. (Preview Statement) My grandmother shared her plant wisdom with me when I was young, and while I killed a few plants as an adult, I’ve started to realize how important it is to me to be surrounded by growing things.

TRANSITION: This all started with the dreaded work days at Grandma’s house.

BODY

1. Grandma Ruby’s house looked like a nursery, but she needed help caring for it and it’s on those work days she shared her wisdom and love for plants with me.
   1. When I say nursery, maybe the image that comes to your mind is flat rows of plants in neat containers, but my Grandma Ruby’s house was like if you took that and laid it vertical.
      1. There were plants on shelves, floor to ceiling.
      2. Every available surface had a plant on it, which got to be difficult when we brought our puppy with the hard tail and he started knocking everything off in his enthusiasm.
      3. Watering took hours and hours, so there was a lot of maintenance work to keep the jungle alive.
   2. So, my mom instituted bimonthly work days, where we’d spend an afternoon helping Grandma move, re-pot, water, and so on.
      1. Looking back, I realize how special these days were, but not going to lie, in the moment, I hated them.
         1. And I was a brat about it too.
         2. My grandmother would try to teach me something about a succulent and I would literally roll my eyes and say something like “I know Grandma, you’ve already told me all this.”
         3. She once asked me to help her move some heavier plants off a tall shelf and I think I actually let out a dramatic sigh.
            1. But seriously, I didn’t want to help this old lady do something that could potentially hurt her if she did it herself?
         4. My grandmother was patient and kind to us, teaching quietly even when we weren’t the most receptive.

TRANSITION: When I first came here to A&M, Grandma Ruby gave me a clipping of a Pothos vine from one of her favorite plants.

1. My freshman year, I killed at least a dozen plants, but that pothos survived and if it’s not too dramatic to say, the plant helped me survive as well.
   1. When I first moved, I was renting a house with three friends from highschool and we were so excited to nest and make the house ours.
      1. This included funky curtains, a bright thrifted couch, and lots of plants.
      2. But my friends weren’t plant people and because they knew my grandma, taking care of the plants quickly became one of my house duties.
   2. Freshman year was rough and there were lots of things that fell through the cracks, caring for plants was just one of them.
      1. My grades were suffering, my roommates were fighting, and I learned what depression looked like for the first time.
      2. All of the plants we bought at the beginning of the school year started dying and that too felt like just another thing that I couldn’t do right, another way I failed.
   3. One of the things you should know about the Pothos plant is that they’re supposed to be easy, but somehow I still messed that one up and had to call for some help.
      1. It was February that first year I think that I called my grandma in tears, so sure that I had killed the pothos plant she had given me.
      2. She listened quietly, then asked some questions about the plant.
         1. She asked me these questions:
            1. What environment or space was it in?
            2. How much attention was I able to give it?
            3. Was it getting the water and sunshine that it needed?
         2. I answered, still kind of sobbing, and she told me that it was okay to not know exactly what the plant needed, it was a learning process.
      3. She asked me the same questions about myself.
         1. How was I feeling about my environment?
         2. Did I feel connected?
         3. Was I able to take care of my basic needs?
      4. And she told me again, that it was okay if these things were hard.
         1. It was okay if I didn’t know how to take care of myself yet, I was learning.
         2. She said, it made sense I was feeling that way when I was fighting with my roommates and struggling with college classes that were harder than I imagined.
         3. She told me it was okay that I was struggling, because I could care for myself and this would pass.
   4. Her support and love helped save the plant and helped me through a hard time.

TRANSITION: That same Pothos is now thriving in my kitchen and every time I see it, I smile, because it reminds me of my grandma and that I’m still growing.

CONCLUSION

1. Summary of Main Points: While I didn’t appreciate all of the time my grandmother spent with us teaching us about something she loved, we now share that love of plants and appreciation for growing things.
2. Restate/Rephrase Thesis: This love has shown me not only what it means to take care of someone else, but what it means to take care of me.
3. Last Thought: My house will probably never be as green as my grandmother’s but I can’t imagine living in a space without these little green reminders.

# Key Word Outline

**INTRO**

Currently tracing…

Inherited love – personal growth

Gma plant wisdom, killed plants, important growing

T: dreaded work days

**MP1**

**I.** nursery, wisdom

a. describe nursery

b. workdays

i. teach me, I know

ii. move shelf, sigh

T: first A&M, clipping

**MPII**

II. freshman, killed but pothos

a. excitement

b. rough year

c. easy plants

i. question

1. environment, attention, water?

ii. Me

1. Environment, connection, basic needs?

iii. It’s okay, I didn’t know, makes sense, struggle would pass

T: Kitchen smile

**CONC**

Appreciate time, growing

Love, taking care of myself

Green, can’t imagine