Outlining

Reading for study is harder than reading for pleasure. Outlining helps you understand difficult textbook chapters, and enables you to think deeply about what you have read. After outlining a chapter, you have a guide for future study. Creating an outline of a chapter is also an effective tool for organizing information from de Blij. While it seems as if it takes a great deal of time, after you become proficient, you will find it goes more quickly. The key, as it is in any reading comprehension note strategy, is writing in your own words.

Use outlines to help you:

• Figure out how the author organized the chapter

• Develop a system for comprehension

• Organize the information

• Understand how ideas fit together

• Think while reading the chapter

• Study for an exam at a later date

*You must condense the information into a short, simple outline that you can use for your own future study*.

To do this you:

• Group similar ideas together

• Rearrange the ideas into your own words

• Look for the relationships among different ideas

In creating an outline, there is a standard procedure and marking system. Large ideas (in de Blij these would be the chapter subtitles) are marked with a Roman Numeral. Then large ideas in that same subsection are given capital Latin letters (A, B, C, etc). Smaller ideas/evidence are then numbered with Arabic numerals (1, 2, 3), and smaller evidentiary information is given lower case Latin letters. This is more clear in an example, so I have created an example of two subsections of Chapter 1 on the following page.

Outlining rules specific that you cannot have a Arabic numeral by itself; if you have a 1, there should at least be a 2. This is also true of the lower case Latin letters (an a must at least be followed by a b). HOWEVER, as the goal of outlining is to help you manage the material in de Blij, you are not beholden to these rules. I merely mention them for any future outlining endeavors.

Why Geography Matters More Than Ever (Chapter 1)

1. Knowledge is Power *(this is the introductory passage before the first subsection in Ch. 1)*
2. Those with knowledge have the advantage
3. World is more competitive
4. World changes rapidly
   * 1. Governments and companies need to make quick decisions
     2. Arab Spring highlights need to know as much as possible – quickly to determine who to help
5. Things move too quickly
6. 20th Century alone has seen incredible change
   1. Climate changes and natural disasters
   2. China’s growth
7. 20th Century is also a tumultuous period of history
   1. Soviet Union
   2. Change of maps/ UN
8. Geography is the framework
9. Geography helps us understand
   1. Transformations and connections
   2. Informs our thoughts and discussions
10. Geography itself has had several transformations
11. Becoming a Geographer

A. Why do people become geographers?

1. Take an undergraduate course and fall in love

2. Personal experiences – de Blij in Rotterdam during WWII