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How to Create a Book Outline

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You carry a unique message.

You've always wanted to write a book.

The question is: *where do you start?*

Let's be honest, writing a book is daunting.

You might have a message to share, or a story to tell, but how will you put all of that on paper?

How do you transform the idea in your head to ink on the page?

The answer?

Set the Table.

Wait, what does that have to do with writing your book?

Set the Table is another way to say: Create an Outline.

Your book idea begins to transform to ink whenever you create an outline.

For this guide, we'll step through what it looks like to Set the Table, so you can begin transforming your idea to ink.

Set the Table

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Set the Table

A seat at the table.

Your story and your message is a table you invite others to sit at.

But in order for a table to stand and support weight, it needs legs.

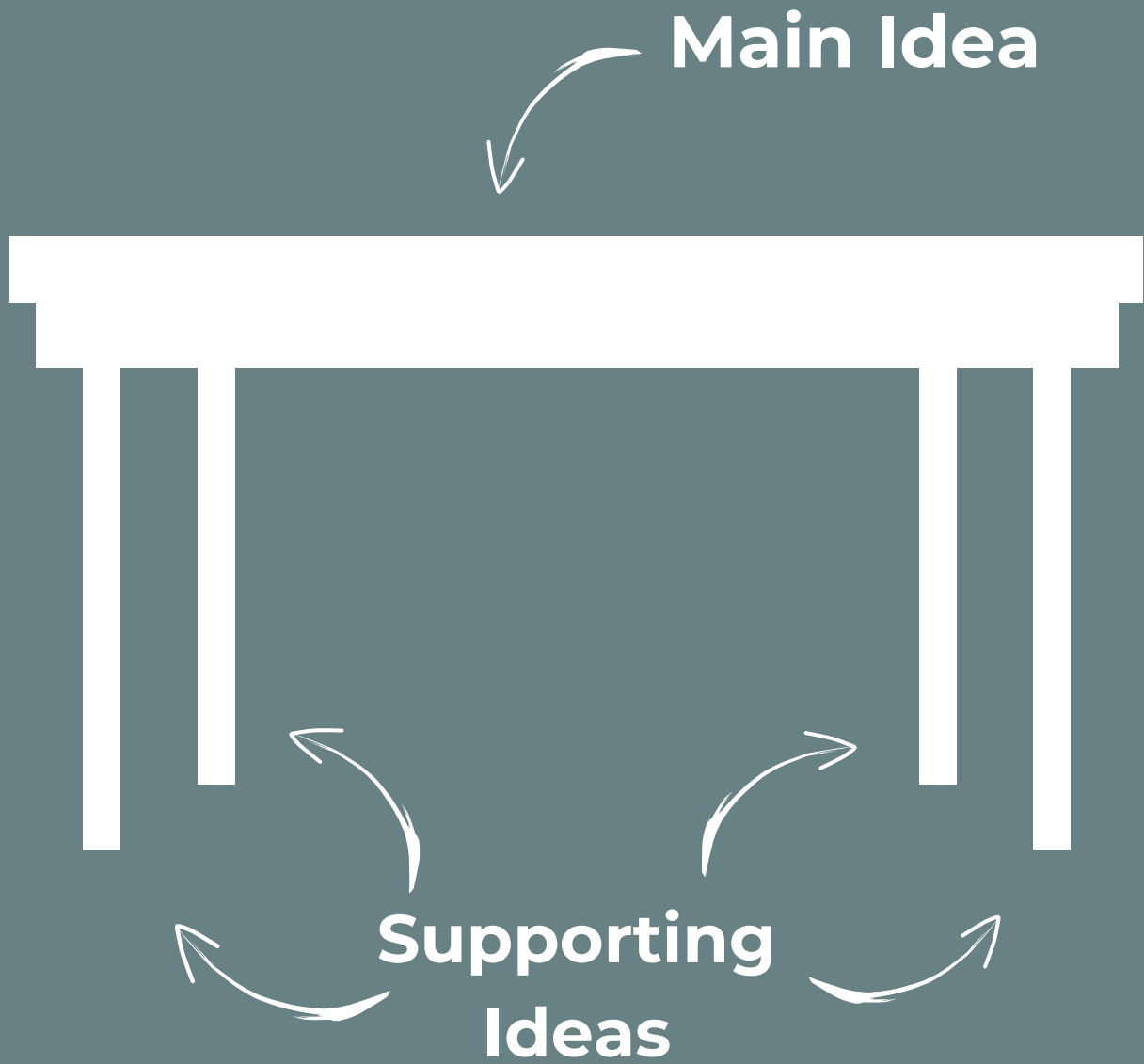
Each leg is unique and provides support for the overall message of the book.

Think about it: If you're writing a book on how to organize your home, your reader needs to know how to organize a home room-by-room. A home is rarely just one room. There's a bathroom, a living room, a bedroom, etc. So in order for a person to sit at the table you've prepared for them to learn about organizing their home, there needs to be some legs to provide support and stability. If you want your reader to learn how to organize their home, they might need to know where to start.

Your reader is valuable.

And in order to value your reader, it's important that you provide them with not just a table to sit at, but a table that will stand.

Set the Table



Set the Table

Main Idea

The question you have to ask yourself when beginning the writing process is this:

What's my main idea?

Your main idea is your table.

It's the place you invite others to take a seat.

As a writer, you're leading people to see something differently, to be inspired, to contemplate, to be challenged, to be entertained.

And in order to lead people, you need to know where you're leading them. In order to invite someone to take a seat, you need a table for them to sit at.

This is why your main idea is key.

Your main idea is where your reader pulls up a chair and allows you to speak into their life.

So before you begin the writing process, it's important to know what your main idea is.

This is the starting point for creating your book outline.

But in order for a table to stand, it needs legs.

Set the Table

Supporting Ideas

Your supporting ideas are the legs to your table.

These ideas will eventually become your chapters.

They are the subtopics that align with and revolve around your main idea.

Often when writing on a particular topic, there will be a few major supporting ideas.

These supporting ideas can form the base for each chapter in your book.

For example, your main idea might be:

How to Organize Your Home

Your supporting ideas might be:

- *Organizing your kitchen*
- *Organizing your bathroom*
- *Organizing your living room*
- *Organizing your closet*
- *Organizing your laundry room*

Each of these legs (supporting ideas) will be what supports and contributes to your overall topic.

Set the Table

Now, you have a **main idea** (*Organizing Your Home*), and **supporting ideas** (*organizing your kitchen, bathroom, living room, closet, and laundry room*).

From this point, you can begin adding your thoughts, ideas, and research to each supporting idea in order to create the content for each chapter of your book.

This empowers you to chip away at the writing process, without becoming overwhelmed at the thought:

How will I write an entire book on organizing your home?

The table is now set.

The legs are in place.

Now, you write.

Put it into practice

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Practice

It's time to put it into practice

It's time to take what you've learned and put it into practice.

On the next two pages, you'll find a sample "Set the Table" for a book on organizing your home.

Once you've looked over the sample template, plug in your information for your book.

This outline will help you begin the process of writing your book.

Rather than being overwhelmed at the idea of writing an entire book, you can begin chipping away at small sections each day.

Then, before you realize it, you'll have a full book manuscript.

Let's take a look at a sample template for our outline process: *Set the Table*

Practice

Set the table

How to Organize Your Home: A Step-By-Step Guide to the Home of Your Dreams

Table (Main Idea): How to organize your home

Legs (Supporting Ideas):

- *Organizing your kitchen*
- *Organizing your bathroom*
- *Organizing your living room*
- *Organizing your closet*
- *Organizing your laundry room*

Leg #1 - Organizing your kitchen

- *Utensils*
- *Plates/Cups*
- *Cookware*

Leg #2 - Organizing your bathroom

- *Hair products*
- *Toiletries*
- *Makeup*

Leg #3 - Organizing your living room

- *Blankets*
 - *Coffee table*
 - *Entertainment center*
 - *Remotes*
-

Practice

Set the table

Leg #4 - Organizing your closet

- *Clothes (summer/winter)*
- *Shoes*
- *Belts*
- *Hats*

Leg #5 - Organizing your laundry room

- *Hampers (lights/darks)*
- *Detergent/Fabric softener*
- *Drying rack*

Now, you have a table with legs.

At this point, you can take it a leg, or chapter, at a time.

Begin to add your own thoughts and practices for organizing your home.

Research possible alternatives for organizing to give people options when organizing their space.

Share thoughts from other experts in the field of home organization. This will help drive home your points in each chapter.

Now, try this template for your own book idea.

Practice

Set the table

Book Title:

Table (Main Idea):

Legs (Supporting Ideas):

-
-
-
-
-

Leg #1 -

-
-
-

Leg #2 -

-
-
-

Leg #3 -

- -
 -
-

Practice

Set the table

Leg #4 -

-
-
-

Leg #5 -

- -
 -
-

You can do this

Creating an outline for your book allows you to simplify the process into smaller steps.

With the table set, you can take what was a daunting idea for a book and turn into ink on a page.

You can do this.

It's time to turn your idea to ink.

If you would like to learn more about how you can transform your idea to ink, scan the QR code below:



jonahlusk.com/ideatoink
