Outline of a Biblical Exegesis
A CWE QuickGuide

I. **Introduction:** Should allow reader to become familiar with the subject of the exegesis.
   - Begin with a hook, or “attention-getter.”
   - Provide a brief background to the subject, book, passage, etc.
   - State verse and thesis about verse. Briefly summarize points to be addressed in the paper.

II. **Historical Context:** The historical setting of the verses that you are exegeting.
   - Think: WHO is writing, to WHOM is he writing, WHERE is he writing, WHEN is he writing, WHY is he writing, and WHAT historical events are taking place at the time that he is writing?
   - Synthesize relevant information as concerns the history and setting surrounding the passage.

III. **Literary Context:** How the passage relates to the book and section containing it.
   - Address genre (i.e. epistle, law, history, poetry, prophecy, etc.).
   - Discuss the main themes/sections of the book and how passage addresses/plays a role within these themes.
   - Summarize the passages or sections directly before and after the main passage.

IV. **Exegesis:** Utilizing your research to explain the passage in small sections, verse-by-verse.
   - Incorporate your historical and literary contexts (that’s why your professor makes you do those whole sections) and mention how those contexts affect the meaning of the passage.
   - You may be asked to exegete the passage through a certain “lens,” or to view it in a certain light or from a particular angle.

V. **Conclusion:** Summarizing and concluding the argument.
   - Summarize the main points made in the exegesis and highlight the most important topics or themes addressed by the passage.
   - Bring your argument to a smooth close and mention possible implications of the argument.

VI. **Application:** Applying the main points to a real-life situation.
   - Start with a general, abstract application. If the main point is “love others before yourself,” perhaps an application is to consider the needs of others first.
   - Next, describe a specific way in which the main points can be applied to a person’s life. Tell a story that describes a real-life situation in which this passage can or ought to be applied. This may require some creativity.

**This outline is intended to be a helpful guideline, but make sure that you understand the specific parameters set by your professor. If not, ask! ☺**