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## Final Topic Paper – “ I am Bartleby” Outline/Bibliography

OUTLINE – First Person Account of Bartleby’s Journey from His Perspective   
I. Interview for Bartleby’s job   
- Finds advertisement in the newspaper bout law firm job, responds to it   
- Does not know why he chose to do the job if he is so apathetic   
- Finds boss pleasant, answers his questions, picks up on impression of Bartleby as amiable   
- Disappointed and depressed by corner office   
II. First days of job   
- Bartleby feels renewed sense of purpose   
- Feels important because of his placement as a high-powered Wall Street firm   
- Feels incredible pull to keep self busy – part of schizophrenia (Beja 559)   
III. Encounter with first job he prefers not to do   
- Starts to crash a bit, feels unfulfilled   
- Unmotivated to work, feels like small cog in bigger machine   
- Boss comes in with paper; looking at it, Bartleby chooses to prefer not to do it   
IV. Continued casual strike on work   
- Keeps telling Boss “ I prefer not to.”   
- Feels alienated from the high-powered bosses his Wall Street law firm job surrounds him with since he is not one of them (Foley 92).   
V. Abandoned interest of lawyer, who confirms Bartleby’s suspicions   
- Boss gives up on Bartleby   
- Bartleby confirms the feeling that he is not important to the boss except for what he can do for him   
- Decides he refuses to do other things as well, he feels important in his sense of rebellion against the expectations of modern society (Foley 102).   
VI. Sent to the Tombs   
- Bartleby is taken to the Tombs, notes the ways they try to help him (Beja 561)   
- Feels dissociated from surroundings, is diagnosed schizophrenic   
- Made sense to him to stop doing what he was doing (Beja 561).   
VII. Is released from the Tombs, starves to Death   
- Bartleby does not feel better after the Tombs, feels the exact same   
- Has chosen to commit to not doing what he prefers not to do, sees no point in anything   
- Starves to death, but is fine with it as it does not upset him

Beja, Morris. " Bartleby & Schizophrenia." The Massachusetts Review (1978): 555-568.   
Foley, Barbara. “ From Wall Street to Astor Place: Historicizing Melville’s ‘ Bartleby’.”   
American Literture 72. 1 (2000): 87-116.   
Sundararajan, Louise. " Being as refusal: Melville’s Bartleby as Heideggerian anti-hero." Janus   
Head (1999). http://www. janushead. org/jhsumm99/sundararajan. cfm.

## Works Cited

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