**Example/Illustration Essay**

The example/illustration essay is the most simple, straightforward essay form you will encounter. It is also the one you will always continue to use in writing your future essays, because **all essays, whether argumentative or informational, need the support that good illustrations and examples provide.**

In essence, an example essay states a generalization and then sets out to support that generalization with an example or a series of examples. Example essays move an idea from the general to the specific so that readers can “see” it for themselves.

For example, let’s say you want to write a paper on friendship and family, and you want to say that sometimes friendship ties are stronger than familial ties. Your thesis ought to indicate that. For example: “Sometimes friendship ties are stronger than family ties.” **A clear thesis** is crucial to a successful example essay because without it readers can only guess what your illustrations or examples are trying to show or prove. Remember that your thesis statement is not so much arguing a position in the example essay as arguing that a certain condition or phenomenon exists.

Then, your task is to support that assertion through the use of examples. You may want to do a **single** or **extended example**, which is simply using one longer example to support your thesis. For example, you might highlight your relationship with your best friend and show how he or she has been like family to you. Another approach would be to use **multiple examples**, which rely on several examples to support the thesis. In this case, you might want to write about two or three of your friendships that would support the idea that friendship ties are sometimes stronger than family ties.

**\* Make sure that your example has a point, and that the point is the one you’re trying to make.**

**Example/Illustration Structure**

**I. Introduction**

· States general idea to be proved (thesis statement)

**II. Body**

· Provides example(s) or illustration(s), which support(s) the thesis

**III. Conclusion**

· Restates the thesis and draws some conclusion from the paper; in the case of our example of friendship ties sometimes being stronger than family ties, the conclusion might suggest that while familial ties are stronger for many people, in your case, your friendship has been just as strong.

Finally, consider the following questions as you revise and edit your examples:

**Are all the examples (or all of the single example’s points) relevant to the thesis?**

**Are the examples specific?** Examples should be detailed and specific, highlighting exactly what it is we need to know in order to support your thesis.

**An illustration essay provides an explanation of a general principle or idea by using a number of well-chosen examples. Illustration is one of the most frequently used methods in writing, especially when the writer wants to impart new or unfamiliar information.**

**An illustration essay involves the following development:**

**• Choose a general idea to illustrate:**

**Examples: Happy are those who are content. ; Teaching is a demanding profession. ; Smiling is a window to the soul.**

* **Use specific examples to illustrate the ideas.**
* **Employ senses of sight, sound, smell, touch, or taste to enhance the vividness of examples;**
* **Use facts, anecdotes, and personal experiences for concrete details.**

**Introduction**

**1. Introduce topic**

**2. Provide transition statement**

**3. Thesis sentence provide the statement which you will illustrate in the essay.**

**Body**

***Body paragraph 1***

**1. Topic Sentence: Present the first supporting idea.**

**2. Supporting Details: Give specific examples (one long example or three short examples).**

**3. Closing Remarks: Wrap up the whole paragraph.**

***Body paragraph 2***

**1. Topic Sentence: Present the second supporting idea.**

**2. Supporting Details: Give specific examples (one long example or three short examples).**

**3. Closing Remarks: Wrap up the whole paragraph.**

***Body paragraph 3***

**1. Topic Sentence: Present the third supporting idea.**

**2. Supporting Details: Give specific examples (one long example or three short examples).**

**3. Closing Remarks: Wrap up the whole paragraph.**

**Conclusion**

**1. Restate the thesis statement.**

**2. Emphasize the importance of the topic**

**How Do I Write an Example/Illustration Essay?**

The example/illustration essay is the most simple, straightforward essay form you will encounter. It is also the one you will **always** continue to use in writing your future essays, because **all essays, whether argumentative or informational, need the support that good illustrations provide.**

***Example***

Say you’re providing examples of racial stereotyping on television. Your thesis ought to indicate simply that you will be giving examples of racial stereotyping. Save your analysis of the types of stereotyping for a classification essay, your analysis of the causes of racial stereotyping for a cause-effect essay, and your analysis of the differences between racial stereotyping on television and in the movies for a comparison/contrast essay. All you’re “proving” in the example essay is that racial stereotyping on television exists.

***Things to Watch for***

Although this is a very basic paper, there are still detours and dead ends to avoid.

-Examples without a point do not help your essay. A long anecdote from your personal experience isn’t necessarily relevant just because it’s an essay written about you; make sure that your example has a point, and

that the point is the one you’re trying to make.

-Beware of piling on too many examples. An example essay probably needs no less than two and no more than four examples to support its thesis statement, unless you have been specifically assigned to use only a single extended example (sometimes called a “narrative essay”).

- Lack of an initial thesis statement to give the example or examples some sense of purpose can make a paper self-destruct before you begin.

**Remember that your thesis statement is not so much arguing a position in the example essay as arguing that a certain**

**condition or phenomenon exits.**

-Beware, too, of lack of transitions between examples. Be particularly wary of the phrase, “For example.” How many times can you reasonably use this phrase in an example essay before it becomes repetitive or redundant? That’s up to you—but repetition is often an indication of a lack of imagination, and it certainly won’t endear you to your reader.

**Example/Illustration Structure**

**I. Introduction**

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**II. Body**

· Provides example(s) or illustration(s), which support(s) the thesis

**III. Conclusion**

· Restates the thesis and draws some conclusion from the paper; in the case of our example of racial stereotypes on television, the conclusion might suggest that television also offers many positive racial models, and that viewers must simply use discretion in absorbing what they see and hear on television.

An Illustration essay illustrates something with examples. While building your illustration essay, you need to make a point. Next, you should provide some detailed and specific patterns to show, justify, or clarify that point. In addition, you need to give enough instances/scenarios/situations/stories to prove the point.

Providing patterns is a major step in writing an illustration paper. It is important for you to employ a diverse range of patterns that appeal to reader and help them comprehend your key point. In this type of essay, you can utilize extended or brief type of patterns. Brief patterns typically serve as concrete examples of straightforward ideas. Extended examples have much more details required, because they function as concrete illustrations of ideas that are difficult to understand using brief instances/scenarios/situations/stories.  
**Writing the illustration essay**

First, you need to find the major idea or thesis for your essay. Review your ideas about the subject and seek strong information to use to illustrate this point in your essay.  
 Second, you need to use find examples that can be used to represent and maintain your major point. It is important for you to explore your examples and make sure they fit with the instances/scenarios/situations/stories. This way you will understand whether your instances/scenarios/situations/stories are specific and detailed enough to communicate the main point.

You should begin planning your illustration essay by studying the selected topic. This way, you will develop a good thesis statement. Opt for a topic you know a sufficient amount of information on or have the ability to find out.

Then you need to think about into the main body. If you are writing a five-paragraph essay, you should use one paragraph for the introductory part, three paragraphs for the main body and one paragraph for the conclusion; every paragraph of the body should address another aspect of the main theme. Before starting to write, you should have created a paper plan.

There are three types of illustration: specific, typical, and hypothetical. Each will be chosen relating to its adaptability to the approach of the paragraph theme under discussion.

1. The ***specific*** illustration uses an example from one’s experience; for example, when you should write about some accidents, you could provide an instance of a particular accident occurred to you and illustrate how it could occur and dealt with.  
2. The ***typical*** illustration uses a generic instance, appropriate to many; using the instance of the accident, this illustration type would be a fact that many accidents occur at home.  
3. The ***hypothetical*** illustration uses an invented example; if the subject were accidents, then a hypothetical illustration might be to present the idea of conditions under which accidents might take place.

Illustration essays provide scenic detail about a situation or an event. It tries to explain and give insight into a particular event. While writing your illustration essay, you should try to provide as many vivid examples as possible.  
In your illustration essay, you should provide the audience with various examples to maintain your position. To fully prove your thesis, you should introduce the most appealing and appropriate instances/scenarios/situations/stories in your paper.

According to another classification, examples are divided into extended and brief. You explain an idea with extended examples; when an idea is complicated, and requires more detail for better understanding. Brief examples are used in illustration writing to help to clarify forthright ideas, which are easily understood.

It is necessary for you to choose examples for your work very carefully. You will need to examples throughout to prove your point which can lead to repetitious writing. In order to avoid this, use a variety of transition words. They are “for instance,” “for example,” “namely,” “including,” “that is,” “like,” and “such as.”

Sample illustration essay- Why I love reading.

I have always been a lover of literature. One of my childhood memories was being able to read on my own. Since then, there was no stopping me from devouring the pages of books. Ever since I was a kid, I have a high stack of books in the corner of my room, waiting to be read. The margins of the pages in my books are filled with doodles, thoughts, agreements or one-sided arguments against the authors. Growing up, I have kept a long list of books I wanted to purchase from most exquisite libraries to the simplest second hand bookshops. I have spent a great chunk of my allowance buying them. In fact, even today, I have trouble managing my closet space because my books are greater than my clothes.

I remember someone asking me why I am passionate about reading. I replied, "Why cannot I be passionate about reading?" Nothing beats the sensation of being surrounded with shelves after shelves of books. They seem to me like pieces of heaven waiting to be discovered. The feel of book in my hands is very familiar it always brings me comfort. Whenever I read, the sound of pages being turned is like music to my ears. Sometimes, I really cannot resist smelling the pages, especially when they are yellow. For me, books satisfy every aspect of a human being - physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual.

I find reading good for me because it is a complex activity for the brain. Not only does it satisfy the senses, it also helps the brain understand and remember things. The more complex materials I read, the more I find my knowledge developing and my imagination broadening. Example of which is when we had a discussion in class about current affairs. My teacher asked about the name of Russian submarine that sank in the Barents Sea in 2000 due to a hydrogen peroxide leak in the torpedo warheads. Nobody knew of the name except me since I read about it in the newspaper. Because of that, I earned high remarks from my teachers and classmates. By the way, the name of the submarine was Kursk.

Reading is fun for me because it provides an easy access to entertainment. If I don't have anything else to do for the day, I know I can rely on a trusty old paperback to whisk me away and let me have fun. I can go through striking lines over and over again to hear the voice and feel the emotion that was delivered by a character in the story, sometimes up to the extent that I was able to memorize them. Reading is a feel good experience; more than being amused because of the literature itself, the thought of being able to read is really the one that is pleasurable. It lifts up sprits it can be so addicting. Even if I am able to put a good book down, and that rarely happens, that is all I think about all day.

Reading is something of great value to me because it provides me an extension of myself through the authors and characters. An opened book, to me, is like an unknown dimension unravelling itself to me. Whenever I peruse pieces of literature, I feel like I am transported in a different place, time, or space that I would never have managed to go to in real life. Through seeing the world in another person's eyes, imagining with another's imagination, and to feel through another's emotions, I feel like I am a character in a story or the writer who pens the literature. I can be a thousand men but still be the person I am. Yet, I am more than myself because I have become a thousand men.

I am passionate about reading mainly because it helps me grow as an individual. I am introduced into perspectives and principles different from my own, and in the process of engaging myself with those philosophies, I think become better than the person I once was. Reading, on my opinion, is both an escape from the harsh realities of life and a means to transcend the boundaries presented in a person's existence.

In the course of reading about a lot of things, I cannot deny that I have learned a lot. I think that a good percentage of who I am now springs from books that have gone under my eyes. I learned from reading about culture that in order to appreciate various perspectives from other races, you must respect their beliefs and practices. I can never say that my racial background is better than other people around the globe, because we come from different points of view. Through acknowledging that someone's culture is as best as my own, I can facilitate understanding on both our sides and make us live a fuller life.

Engaging myself in materials relating to history teaches me that with hard work, dedication, and faith, nothing is impossible. How many collective movements have been able to overthrow a corrupt administration? it is through reading about selfless acts for people and nation that make realize the power of human nature to initiate change is he wills it. I am also taught how I as an individual can create a spark that could ignite a passion for reform. A hero's vision of reform and better living conditions not only for himself but also for his motherland is not different from my own, only if I have wanted to think about it.

Devouring pages after pages of scientific advancements helped me understand that the only thing constant in the world is changed. Mankind indeed has come long way from species that once yielded fire for survival. Technology has made life easier for us man today yet there is not halting. The motivation to improve will always be constant as long as there is something to look forward to at the end of the day and science constantly reminds us of that.

Reading has also helped me a great deal in terms of everyday life. The simplest is when I am able to relate to the most mundane to the most intellectually challenging conversations. Not only am I able to state an opinion on topics being thrown my way, I am also able to reason out for or against points of view that are alike or different from mine. I can dissect and synthesize thoughts in relation to the points being presented so I will not be just blabbing about incoherent ideas.

Reading also helps me when I write about things. I have always believed that the greatest writers of all time have been voracious readers like me because no one could write so exceptionally without having read about various topics. Also, broad imagination also accounts for the pieces of literature having perused, as the earlier would have flourished without the latter. So when I am writing about something, whether academically or for pleasure, I try to read as much about the subject so I can be able to pen thoughts in an organized and meaningful fashion.

In conclusion, I have found writing as a wonderful means of learning because it fully nourishes all of the aspects of the human existence. Not only does it widens a person's knowledge about things around him, reading also satisfies the heart and the spirit by letting them mature with wisdom about things that cannot be seen by the naked eye. Reading helps me better learn and understand things that we humans face in our everyday lives, from the rich cultural past of our ancestors, to the present woes of our society, and the optimism that lies in hoping for the future. Reading is also helpful in practically dealing with the nuances of life, from the most superficial to the core-shaking. Reading, for me, is not just a hobby; it is a way of life.

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