ILLUSTRATION ESSAY

(AKA, Example Essay)

RHETORICAL MODE:

- **<u>OPTION #1</u>**: General examples supported by more specific examples.
- **<u>OPTION #2</u>**: **Reasons** supported by specific, relevant **examples**.

WCE PREP:

- For the Writing Competency Exam, students are given a broad subject and must then narrow it to a focused topic.
- Next, students must concentrate that confined topic into a clear, concise Thesis Statement.
- In the essay, they must then develop that Thesis according to the accepted standards for the given rhetorical patterns Illustration, Process, Classification, and Comparison/Contrast.
- Therefore, to prepare adequately for the WCE, we are going to use *past* WCE subjects for the subjects of our next three essays **Illustration**, **Process**, and **Classification**.

SUBJECTS:

- 1. Choose **one** (1) of the following **<u>SUBJECTS</u>** that you *must* use for the Illustration Essay:
 - A. EDUCATION
 - B. WORK
 - C. TRAVEL-LEISURE
- 2. Next, place that subject into a statement that will serve as your **OPENING GENERALIZATION** in your Introduction paragraph. For example
 - Education is a *vital* aspect of life.
 - Work is an *essential* part of adulthood.
 - Travel and Leisure have become necessary aspects of the well-balanced lifestyle.
- 3. Next, focus that broad subject into a narrow **<u>TOPIC</u>**. Below are some examples –

A. Education

- Examples of ways people learn
- Examples of changes you would make as school board director in your district
- Examples of educational trips

B. Work

- Examples of part-time jobs for your demographic
- Examples of taxes that should be eliminated from your pay check and why
- Examples in the workforce today

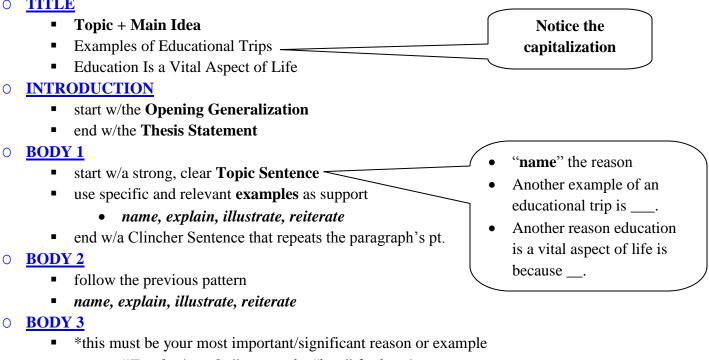
C. Travel and Leisure

- Examples of vacations
- Examples of changes in post-9/11 America
- Examples of lessons learned from travel and leisure

* <u>Another OPTION is to prove your statement from Step #2</u>:

- Prove that Education is a vital aspect of life.
- *Prove that* Work is an essential part of adulthood.
- o Prove that Leisure is a necessary aspect of a well-balanced lifestyle
 - Add 3 reasons to your statement to make it into a Thesis ("BECAUSE").
 - Then in the Body of the essay support each reason with a specific example.

- 4. Next is to fashion a *focused* **THESIS SENTENCE** from your chosen topic.
 - Topic + Main Idea + Support
 - Examples of educational trips include ____, ___, and ____.
 - Education is a vital aspect of life because it ____, ___, and ____.
- 5. With Topic, Thesis, and Opening Generalization now in hand, you are ready to pattern your Illustration Essay in accordance to the **STRUCTURE** discussed in the PowerPoint:
 - \circ **TITLE**



• "*Emphatic order*" = save the "best" for last & say so

• follow the previous pattern - *name*, *explain*, *illustrate*, *reiterate*

O CONCLUSION

- reiterate your Thesis and main points
- "So What?!" make an argument

prompt as part of the	prompt as part of the
OPENING GENERALIZATION	THESIS
I. Introduction (ends w/Thesis)	I. Introduction (ends w/Thesis)
II. Example #1	II. Reason #1
III. Example #2	III. Reason #2
IV. Example #3 (<i>best</i>)	IV. Reason #3 (best)
V. Conclusion	V. Conclusion
*Use <i>specific</i> examples to support \rightarrow	specific instances, specific people, specific events,

EXAMPLES

- **OPTION #1: Illustrate the Prompt Intro:** Since travel and leisure have become necessary aspects of the well-balanced lifestyle, people try to take vacations at least once a year. Some people go far away, travelling to foreign countries and exotic locales. Others may opt for some place local to get away from the everyday stresses of modern life. I certainly need to "get out of Dodge" every so often to keep my proverbial battery charged. Thus, I have been on some wonderful vacations over the year. Examples of the three most interesting vacations I have had are my trips to Antarctica, New Zealand, and Mars.
 - this could easily become the "examples of educational trips" given above

* **<u>BODY PARAGRAPH STRUCTURE</u>**:

- *Name* the example in a Topic Sentence.
 - One of the most interesting trips I have been on...
- *Be **specific** in your illustration.
- *Make sure the details you give match your theme: *interesting* OR *educational*
- *Reiterate* the example in a Clincher Sentence.
- **OPTION #2: Prove the Prompt Intro:** We live in a hypermodern world now in which everything streaks by at light speed. There hardly seems time to catch our breath on a given day, leaving us feeling exhausted, empty, and depressed. Sometimes it feels as if we are revving our engines so high that they will blow a gasket at any moment. However, I do believe that there is an antidote for the hypermodern blues: taking a vacation. In general, travel and leisure are important remedies for today's high-speed culture. In particular, though, taking vacations has become a necessary aspect of the well-balanced lifestyle because it exposes us to new cultures, it reboots our family life, and it recharges our batteries for work.

* **<u>BODY PARAGRAPH STRUCTURE</u>**:

- *Name* the reason in a Topic Sentence.
 - One reason vacations are necessary today is ...
- *Explain* or clarify the reason.
 - In other words ...
 - That is to say...
- **Illustrate* it with a *specific* example.
 - For example, one time I....
- *Reiterate* the reason in a Clincher Sentence.
 - Thus, one significant reason vacations are a vital aspect of a well-balanced lifestyle is