

ILLUSTRATION ESSAY

(AKA, **Example** Essay)

RHETORICAL MODE:

- **OPTION #1:** General examples supported by more specific **examples**.
- **OPTION #2:** 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 **SUBJECTS** 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 **TOPIC**. 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

* **Another OPTION is to prove your statement from Step #2:**

- *Prove that* Education is a vital aspect of life.
- *Prove that* Work is an essential part of adulthood.
- *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:

○ **TITLE**

- **Topic + Main Idea**
- Examples of Educational Trips
- Education Is a Vital Aspect of Life

Notice the capitalization

○ **INTRODUCTION**

- start w/the **Opening Generalization**
- end w/the **Thesis Statement**

○ **BODY 1**

- start w/a strong, clear **Topic Sentence**
- use specific and relevant **examples** as support
 - *name, explain, illustrate, reiterate*
- end w/a Clincher Sentence that repeats the paragraph's pt.

- “**name**” the reason
- Another example of an educational trip is __.
- Another reason education is a vital aspect of life is because __.

○ **BODY 2**

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

○ **BODY 3**

- *this must be your most important/significant reason or example
 - “*Emphatic order*” = save the “best” for last & say so
- follow the previous pattern - *name, explain, illustrate, reiterate*

○ **CONCLUSION**

- reiterate your Thesis and main points
- “**So What?!**” – make an argument

<i>prompt as part of the</i> <u>OPENING GENERALIZATION</u>	<i>prompt as part of the</i> <u>THESIS</u>
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 (<i>best</i>)
V. Conclusion	V. Conclusion
*Use <i>specific</i> examples to support →	<i>specific</i> instances, <i>specific</i> people, <i>specific</i> 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**
 - ❖ **BODY PARAGRAPH STRUCTURE:**
 - *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.
 - ❖ **BODY PARAGRAPH STRUCTURE:**
 - *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*