



ILLUSTRATION

(AKA, Example Essay)



THE RHETORICAL MODE

RHETORICAL MODE

❖ DEFINITION:

❖ AKA:

- ❑ Illustration Essay
- ❑ Illustrative Essay
- ❑ Example Essay

RHETORICAL MODE

❖ DEFINITION:

❖ “illustration”

❑ *not* as in drawing or sketching

❑ *but* as in demonstrating, proving, exhibiting, revealing, showing, exemplifying

RHETORICAL MODE

❖ DEFINITION:

❖ “example”

- ❑ relevant, topical EXAMPLES
- ❑ unambiguous, unequivocal EXAMPLES
- ❑ concrete and specific details & EXAMPLES
- ❑ specific EXAMPLES of general terms

RHETORICAL MODE

❖ 2 BASIC APPROACHES:

1. **Reasons** supported by **specific, relevant examples**.
2. **General examples** supported by **more specific examples**.

❖ The key part of this mode is the move

- ❑ *from* GENERAL, abstract
- ❑ *to* SPECIFIC, concrete
 - *specific* people, places, objects
 - *specific* instances

RHETORICAL MODE

❖ CHARACTERISTICS:

- ❑ *Emphatic Order*: save the “best” for last & say so
- ❑ *Transitions*: “for example,” “for instance”
- ❑ *“The Classic 5-Paragraph Essay”*:
 - Introduction (ends w/Thesis)
 - 3 Body par. (for 3 reasons or for 3 examples)
 - Conclusion



WCE PREP

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.**

WCE PREP

- ❖ Therefore, to prepare adequately for the WCE,
- ❖ we are going to use *past WCE subjects*
- ❖ for the *subjects of our next 3 essays* –
 - ❑ Illustration
 - ❑ Process
 - ❑ Classification



SUBJECTS

SUBJECTS

❖ Choose **one (1)** of the following SUBJECTS that you *must* use for the Illustration Essay:

EDUCATION

WORK

TRAVEL – LEISURE



PROMPTS

PROMPTS

- ❖ 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.



TOPIC

TOPIC

- ❖ Next, focus that broad subject into a narrow TOPIC.
- ❖ Below are some examples –
 - ❑ Education
 - o Examples of ways people learn
 - o Examples of changes you would make as school board director in your district
 - o Examples of educational trips
- ❖ Education → Vital → outside of class → Trips

TOPIC

❖ Focus that broad subject into a narrow TOPIC.

□ Work

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

❖ Work → Essential → Students → PT Jobs for College Students

TOPIC

❖ Focus that broad subject into a narrow TOPIC.

□ Travel and Leisure

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

❖ T&L → Necessary → Travel → Vacations

TOPIC

**** Another OPTION ****

❖ prove your statement from Step #2:

❖ (prove the prompt)

- ❑ *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.

(many students like this option)

TOPIC

**** Another OPTION ****

❖ prove your statement from Step #2:

❑ THESIS:

- o To make your thesis
- o add **3 REASONS** to your prompt statement (“**BECAUSE**”).

❑ BODY:

- o Then in the **Body of the Essay** support each reason with a *specific* example.
- ❑ *One reason education is vital is because....*
- ❑ *For example, last Tuesday I*



THESIS

THESIS

❖ 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 __.



STRUCTURE

STRUCTURE

- ❖ With **Topic**, **Thesis**, and **Opening Generalization** now in hand, you are ready to pattern your Illustration Essay in accordance to the proper **STRUCTURE**:

<u>OPTION #1</u> (prompt as Opening Generalization)	<u>OPTION #2</u> (prompt as part of the Thesis – prove prompt)
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

Structure: TITLE

❖ TITLE

□ Topic + Main Idea

- Examples of Educational Trips
- Education Is a Vital Aspect of Life

Notice the
Capitalization

Structure: INTRODUCTION

❖ INTRODUCTION

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

(see the digressions above – with the “→”)

Structure: BODY

❖ BODY 1

□ ALL body paragraphs

1. *Name*
2. *Explain*
3. *Illustrate*
4. *Reiterate*

Structure: BODY

❖ BODY 1

❑ Name:

- o start w/a strong, clear **TOPIC SENTENCE**
 - *Another example of an educational trip is*
 - *Another reason education is a vital aspect of life is*

❑ Explain:

- o explain or clarify your pt., define your term

❑ Illustrate:

- o use specific and relevant **EXAMPLES** as support

❑ Reiterate:

- o end w/a **CLINCHER SENTENCE** that repeats the paragraph's point & relates it to the overall
 - *Thus, one reason work is an essential part of adulthood is ...*

Structure: BODY

❖ BODY 2

- ❑ follow the previous pattern –
 - o *name, explain, illustrate, reiterate*

❖ BODY 3

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

Structure: CONCLUSION

❖ CONCLUSION

- ❑ *reiterate* your Thesis
- ❑ *reiterate* your main points
- ❑ “So What?!”
 - draw a conclusion
 - make a recommendation
 - make an argument



RECAP

RECAP

prompt as part of the
OPENING GENERALIZATION

- I. Introduction (ends w/Thesis)
 - II. Example #1
 - III. Example #2
 - IV. Example #3 (*best*)
 - V. Conclusion
- ❖ Use specific examples to support
 - ❑ *specific* instances, *specific* people, *specific* events,...

RECAP

prompt as part of the
THESIS

- I. Introduction (ends w/Thesis)
 - II. Reason #1
 - III. Reason #2
 - IV. Reason #3 (*best*)
 - V. Conclusion
- ❖ Use specific examples to support
- ❑ *specific* instances, *specific* people, *specific* events,...



EXAMPLES

EXAMPLES

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

EXAMPLES

* Illustrate the Prompt *

❖ 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.

EXAMPLES

*** 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.

EXAMPLES

** Prove the Prompt **

❖ 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*