ILLUSTRATION ESSAY
(AKA, Example Essay)

RHETORICAL MODE:
• Reasons supported by specific, relevant examples.
• General examples supported by more specific 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 –
   o Education is a vital aspect of life.
   o Work is an essential part of adulthood.
   o 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:
   o Prove that Education is a vital aspect of life.
   o 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:
   - **TITLE**
     - Topic + Main Idea
     - Examples of Educational Trips
     - Education Is A Vital Aspect of Life
   - **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.
   - **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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>prompt as part of the</strong></th>
<th><strong>prompt as part of the</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OPENING GENERALIZATION</td>
<td>THESIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. Introduction (ends w/Thesis)</td>
<td>I. Introduction (ends w/Thesis)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Example #1</td>
<td>II. Reason #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. Example #2</td>
<td>III. Reason #2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV. Example #3 (best)</td>
<td>IV. Reason #3 (best)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V. Conclusion</td>
<td>V. Conclusion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Use **specific** examples to support → **specific** instances, **specific** people, **specific** events,…
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
  - **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.

- **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 ….