

**APSU Writing Center**  
Exemplification Essay

**What is an Exemplification Essay?**

- An exemplification essay is a type of argumentative essay that uses specific examples to support and illustrate a thesis.
- It emphasizes real-world evidence rather than abstract reasoning.

**Difference from a Standard Argumentative Essay**

<b>Exemplification</b> Uses anecdotes, statistics, case studies	<b>Argumentative</b> Relies on logical reasoning and persuasive techniques
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**How to write an Exemplification Essay:**

**Choose a Topic**

- Pick a subject that interests you and that you can support with specific examples.
- **Example:** “The impact of social media on interpersonal relationships...”

**Develop a Thesis Statement**

- State your main argument in a clear, focused sentence that your examples will support.
- **Example:** “Social media has both positive and negative effects on personal relationships...”

**Find Sources / Evidence**

- Gather evidence that clearly support your thesis.
- **Example:** “According to XYZ Research Institute, 75% of users...”

**Create an Outline**

- Organize your ideas so your examples and arguments flow logically.
- **Introduction:** Overview + thesis
- **Body 1:** Positive effects
- **Body 2:** Negative effects
- **Conclusion:** Summary + significance

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**Write the Rough Draft**

- Introduce your examples clearly to illustrate your points and strengthen your thesis.
- **Example:** “For instance, a longitudinal study at Harvard Medical School found...”

**Revise and Edit**

- Reread through your writing aloud to check for grammar and word choice.
- Schedule an appointment with a writing tutor for a final review before submitting.

**Questions to Answer**

- **Who** is affected? Who are the experts or authorities you can cite?
- **What** is your thesis? What examples illustrate it?
- **When** did the issue emerge? When did key events happen?
- **Where** does the issue occur? Where have examples been documented?
- **Why** do these examples effectively support your thesis? Why should the reader care?
- **How** does the evidence support your thesis? How could the problem be addressed or resolved?

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Exemplification Essay Outline

**Introduction:** Briefly introduce the topic and state a focused thesis.

**Body Paragraph 1:** Present your first supporting point with an example and explain how it proves the thesis.

**Body Paragraph 2:** Present your second supporting point with an example and explain how it proves the thesis.

**Body Paragraph 3:** Present a third supporting point with an example and explain how it proves the thesis.

**Conclusion:** Restate your thesis in new words, summarize your main points, and explain why your argument matters.



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### References

Lincoln University Academic Departments. (n.d.) *Rhetorical Patterns*. Lincoln University.

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