

## **Exemplification Essay**

### **APSU Writing Center Handout**

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**

**Exemplification:** Uses anecdotes, statistics, case studies

**Argumentative:** Relies on logical reasoning and persuasive techniques

#### **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 supports 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

### **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?

**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.

## References

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

[www.lincoln.edu/academics/academic-departments/languages-and-literature-department/rhetorical-patterns/rhetorical-patterns.html](http://www.lincoln.edu/academics/academic-departments/languages-and-literature-department/rhetorical-patterns/rhetorical-patterns.html)

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