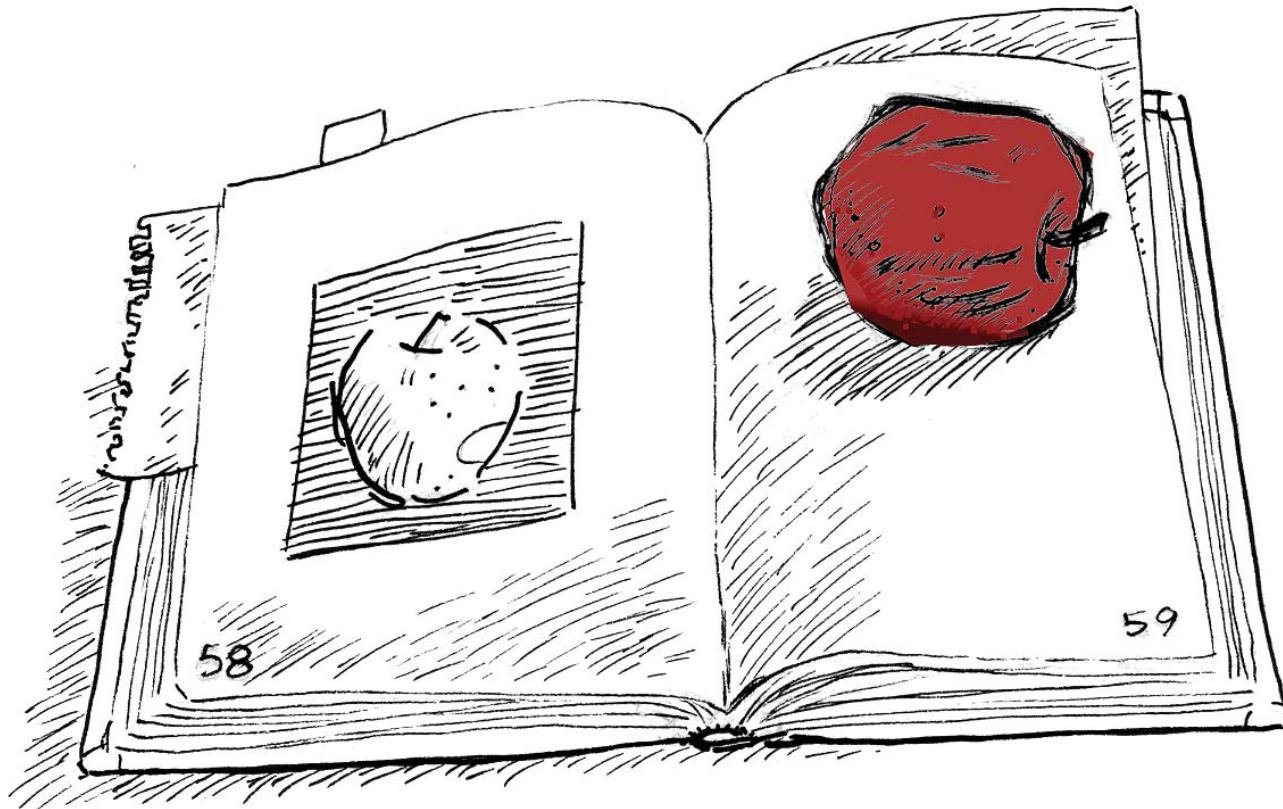


Exemplification Mode



Exemplifications=Example=Illustration

Exemplification writing occurs when the writer supplies different examples to defend the topic sentence.

These types of exemplifications:

- can exist as individual sentences, full paragraphs, or in full essay format
- help clarify your opinion and strengthens your main topic
- prove that your opinion contains valid arguments

Three Approaches to Avoid

1. avoid generalities

imprecise or vague statements, casual observations:

A man had trouble lifting a box from his car.

—be specific:

Joe, a young man out of shape, struggled to lift the wooden crate out of his 1980's Ford Mustang.

2. avoid fictional creations, or fake details

all statistical evidence must be backed up by an authority or expert
and will be cited from valid resource

3. avoid heavy, abstracted ideas:

ambiguous> The fall day had great beauty despite the dreariness.

be concrete> Damp red and yellow leaves gleamed through a gray mist.

Exemplification Functions

- **persuade/confirm/influence:** these help convince to the opposition your view and opinions demonstrate validity; these affirm ideas for those in agreement with you; influence neutral parties
- **speculate:** show possible actions or reactions to a given situation
- **explain** difficult ideas: discuss types of elements related to one subject
- **prevent miscommunication:** prevent possible misinterpretation
- **clarify/defend** topic sentence
- **back up comments:** every idea presented must be defended with an example and/or a quotation from an authoritative reference

Objective or Subjective

Like the Description pattern, Exemplification writing can be subjective or objective by tone or word choice.

(see demo for Description Mode)

Remember:

- When constructing your basic ideas, the more details you provide regarding an observation, the stronger your defense becomes. (This builds strong Logos.)
- When defending your observations the more details you provide about a critic, the stronger your example becomes. (This build strong Ethos.)

Again, be certain you know if your audience is:

- against your idea
- agrees with your idea
- neutral to your idea

> such knowledge controls the type of tone and subject within the project

What to Use

- personal experience examples < *informal essays only*
- public opinions and editorials; *some* blogs, if from authoritative figure
- memoirs, other people's experiences
- quotes in interviews, printed material
- credible facts found in research (statistics, dates, general information)
- established scientific theories
- hypothetical examples can be used with **target words**:

Suppose we colonize the moon with convicted criminals—

Let's assume long distance space flight will be achieved within our lifetime—

- Use several examples throughout the paper— do not rely on just one to make your point.

How to Use

- Be sure the information is *relevant* and does not *contradict* your opinion
- Make sure your information is *accurate* and *up-to-date*;
information should not be older than five years old
- Use examples which are *representative* of your topic;
do not stray into other side issues
- Develop your examples with parallelism and extensive details;
be specific and thorough

Organization

These methods are similar to the Description Pattern's organization strategies—

- **chronological**—linear time line; historical records
- **emphatic**— minor, mundane examples leading to most extreme;
building a strategic cover letter for an application
- **complexity**—moving from basic ideas to increasing complex theories;
explaining basic philosophical concepts from simplest to most intricate