



**TYPES
OF
ESSAYS**

There are many types of developing an essay that depend on the topic. Here are some of them

- Narrative essays
- Descriptive essays
- Expository essays
- Definition essays
- Process essays
- Illustration Essay
- Compare and contrast essays
- Cause and effect essays
- Argumentative essays
- Persuasive essays
- Critical essays

During this semester, students will be exposed to the following

types :

- Illustration Essay
- Compare and contrast essays
- Cause and effect essays

The Example or the illustration essay

The example/ illustration essay is considered to be one of the most famous strategies used in writing in order to prove a thesis. In this pattern of development, the writer tries to argue or persuade the reader through the use of different and convincing examples. It is the most straightforward essay form that is mostly encountered because all types of essays whether argumentative or informational need the support that good illustrations provide. (this can be compared with everyday conversation when people generally use examples to prove the truth of what they are stating.). However, we must be more careful in selecting examples in order to have an effective development.

The way you develop an example essay depends on what the topic is and on what you want to say. Just how many examples you use in your essay depends on the topic. Some topics require numerous examples, whereas others can be effectively developed with three or four extended examples. Therefore, three or four examples should suffice. However, the examples you use to develop the thesis statement should be representative examples, examples that fairly support the thesis.

- **Organization of Examples**

The examples and details in an expository composition can be organized according to time, familiarity and importance. In an example essay, the principle of organization is essentially the same. The writer begins with probably the least interesting examples and ends with the most interesting ones.

In the Introduction, the writer states the general idea to be proved (the thesis statement). In the Body, he provides examples or illustrations, which support the thesis statement. The illustrations that prove the truthfulness of the thesis statement are the topics of the three developmental paragraphs. In the Conclusion, the writer restates the thesis statement and draws some conclusion from the whole essay.

- **Transitions between Paragraphs**

Developmental paragraphs in an example essay must be connected so that they flow smoothly and naturally without any interruption. Just because a paragraph introduces an additional aspect of the topic does not mean that the shift from one topic to the next should be abrupt; indeed, the shift should be smooth so that the reader understands clearly the progression of ideas. The examples in this type of essay can be organized according to time, familiarity, or importance. Most of the time the beginning is from the least

interesting(important, familiar...) example to the most interesting(important, familiar...)
one or vice versa .

There are many ways to connect the paragraphs in an essay but the most important ones are the use of transitional expressions and the repetition of key words or phrases.

- The transitional expressions used in the example essay are

Take for example,	Another example	- Still another example
- One example,	- An additional example	- A final example
- First,	- Second,	- Third,
- To begin with,	- Next,	- The most important example

- Repetition of Key words and phrases:

Transitional expressions are useful for making paragraphs connect logically; however, these phrases can become mechanical and repetitious. For a variety and even for more smoothness, repeat a key word or its synonyms.

Remarks

While writing an example essay, you should consider the following remarks:

- Giving examples without a purpose or a point to prove does not help your essay. By point means the things that prove and support the thesis statement. Make sure that your example has a point, and that point is the one you are trying to make. For instance, smoking cigarettes does more harm than benefits; in this case, the examples chosen to support this thesis should all focus on the bad effects of smoking.

- Remember that your thesis statement is not so much arguing a position in the example essay as arguing that a certain condition or a phenomenon exists. For example in "smoking does more harm than benefits", your aim is to prove the thesis by relying on examples that this phenomenon really exist, and you are not asked to argue.

- The use of transitions between examples is very necessary.

However, the over use of these transitions will destroy your imagination because redundancy and repetition is often a sign of lack of imagination and creativity.

Samples of an Example/Illustration Essay

1. New Life Styles from Old Philosophies.

The accumulated wisdom of religions and philosophies from around the world offers much guidance to people who are shaping life styles appropriate to the last quarter of the Twentieth century. From the Orient, from the Arab world, and from the West come ideas that have endured. Here are some of them.

Buddhism, Christianity, and many other beliefs recognize the value of the Golden Rule : «Do unto others as you would have others do unto you. ».The Greek philosopher Socrates illustrated the Golden Rule at the end of his life.Sentenced to death in the fifth century B.C. for his heretical social and religious views, he refused the chance to escape from prison.This was his reasoning.When a person is born, Socrates points out, he enters into an implied contract with the state.Because of this, the individual has the right to expect protection from the state throughout his lifetime.In turn, the state has an equally strong claim on the citizen to obey its laws.If the person feels that the law is unjust, said Socrates, he has two courses of action.He can either work to influence the repeal of the law or renounce his citizenship.But he must not break the law.In this, he is not different from the state, which must not neglect his duty to the citizens.Socrates' experience speaks to the modern man who sometimes may be tempted to use extreme means to upset the delicate balance existing between a citizen and his state.

A second insight stems from the « Categorical Imperative », first formulated by the German philosopher Immanuel Kant in his 1785 work *Metaphysics of Morals*.Simply stated, the « categorical imperative » holds that a person should act as if the example of his action were to become a general law for all men to follow.Following this premise, one would find it difficult to justify theft and murder. Even to borrow money is wrong, according to Kant, because if everyone did this, there would be no money left to borrow.

Further guidelines are found in the teachings of Mohamed (peace be on him), collected in the Koran.His Islamic contributions express a profound humanism; Mohamed emphasized the dignity of man and viewed the whole of humanity as a single nation. He both encouraged the expansion of knowledge and placed great importance on

the value of work, however humble it might be. Today's young crafts people, skillfully working to create woven goods or jewelries or candles, and the street musicians in many North American cities are all following the industrious tradition of Mohamed.

Still another precept, this one from the Buddhist religion, is illustrated by the custom of buying a bird in a small wooden cage in order to open the cage's door and release the bird. The underlying ideas of gentleness and freedom have a timeless relevance.

Finally, the two short sentences carved by the Greeks on the temple of Delphi, can give superb direction to human life regardless of time or place: « Know thyself », says one inscription, offering advice that is vital but not easy to follow. And « Nothing in excess », reads the second, echoing the Golden Mean, or middle way, stressed by many religions. This rule of avoiding excess in actions can apply equally well to almost every phase of life including eating, drinking, sleeping, working, playing, thinking, and feeling.

Analysis of the Composition

The expository composition « New lifestyles from old philosophies » contains six paragraphs, each of them having a special purpose. The first paragraph is introductory; the next four paragraphs discuss in turn four different philosophies – The Golden Rule, The Categorical Imperative, Ideas from The Koran, and a Buddhist idea. The sixth paragraph combines the discussion of a Greek thought with a concluding statement.

To assure unity, keep in mind that a paragraph should constitute a single unit of thought and that its purpose is to discuss only one topic or one aspect of the topic. In this essay, each paragraph is limited to a single aspect of the subject of philosophy.

Notice how ideas development has been indicated by beginning each paragraph with a topic sentence. The first paragraph's topic sentence explains the essay's role. Then, the next two sentences combine to express the thesis statement that the composition will focus on philosophical ideas that have endured. The five paragraphs of the main development begin each with a topic sentence. In each of these sentences, the controlling idea can easily be identified.

To be unified, of course, a paragraph should discuss only that material related to its controlling idea. When there is no more to say on a topic, it is time to begin a new paragraph. In moving from one paragraph to the next, one must make clear the connection in thought between the paragraph he is concluding and the new one he begins.

2.

MY FAVORITE SIGHTS

In each country in the world, there are some beautiful sights to see. They might be a monument, a garden, or a cathedral. Every country is proud of them and everyone is interested in talking about them. In my country, three important points of interest attract a great number of tourists all year. No portrait of these sights is complete without mentioning their historical and seasonal aspects. Because of these aspects, Quebec is a place where you can find some of the most interesting sights you will ever see.

Old Quebec City is the living witness of our history. The first example is the church Notre-Dame des Victoires. Located at the bottom of Cap Diamante, this church

was the first one built in North America. It commemorates the establishment of Quebec in 1608. It is a modest and charming church, constructed of stones and dominated by a single belfry from where you can still hear authentic chimes ringing. Another example is the Ramparts. Originally, they were long fortifications all around the city with three main doors to enter in. Now, the three doors are renovated and part of the fortifications is preserved, offering a harmonious blend of history and innovation. Finally, the focal point of Old Quebec city is the Plains d'Abraham. It is a very large hill from which we can have a scenic view of the Saint Lawrence River and the city. It was on this site that our founders won many battles but, unfortunately, lost the most important one. Nevertheless, the spot is now a wonderful park where is still present, with its many cannons, a past which is not so far away. Regardless of the season, those three points are colorful: red in autumn, white in winter, light green in spring, and dark green in summer.

From the Plains d'Abraham, it is easy to discover the majestic Saint Lawrence River. This beautiful broad river was the open door for our founders. Traveling in canoes, they established the first three cities in the lands drained by the Saint Lawrence: Quebec, Montreal, and Trois-Rivières. They must have been impressed with the clear, sweet water, the tree-studded island, and the banks lined with pine and hemlock. Today, the river is an exceptional waterway extending 1,500 miles into the interior. Like the Mississippi River, it is, in every season, the location for great activities. Although the most important one is commercial, pleasure and sport are considerable: for example, boating, water-skiing, and fishing. These are particularly popular in summer. Furthermore, even though there are 3 to 5 feet of ice on the river in the winter, the Saint Lawrence is still navigable.

On the north shore of the Saint Lawrence River, five miles from Quebec, the famous Montmorency Falls are located. These beautiful falls were discovered by a French explorer in the sixteenth century. About 350 feet high, and with frothing, foaming sheets of water, they are the highest falls in North America. During the summer, it is popular to go to one of the huge park areas near the falls to admire their cascades. At night, it is possible to hear and see a lovely sound and light show. During the winter, the main activity is at the bottom. The small drops of vapor in the air form a huge, round block of ice at the bottom of the falls which becomes bigger and bigger. This strange sight draws a lot of children and adults who spend time climbing up and down.

Is it possible to find a country where the beauty, the history, and the variety in the scenery are combined in such perfect harmony? Of course, our four seasons mean four different aspects of the same sight. I don't know if it is because I am far from my country, but I am convinced that Quebec has some of the most beautiful sights that I have ever seen.

Analysis of the Essay

The technique used in this introduction is **funnel**, as it starts by making reference to every country in the world and the sights there are to be seen. After providing examples of the possible sights, the feeling of pride is introduced. What follows is a transition, in which we learn that the writer will refer to her own country and to three sights in particular. What follows is a reference to historical and seasonal aspects, which we expect to find in each developmental paragraph, as everything that is presented in the introduction should be developed throughout the essay. The last sentence contains the Thesis Statement: *Quebec is a place where you can find some of the most interesting sights you will ever see.*

The Body of the Essay

The first Developmental Paragraph

The Topic Sentence: Old Quebec City is the living witness of our history.

The Topic: Old Quebec City.

The Controlling Idea: living witness of our history.

This Topic Sentence is supported by means of examples. The first one, Notre-Dame des Victoires, is soon mentioned, followed by its location, a reference to the past and a brief description of the place. Then the second example is introduced: the Ramparts, with a historical reference as well as a brief description. Then comes the third example, the most important one, the Plaines d'Abraham, followed by a description and some historical reference, in contrast with its present situation. The last sentence presents the seasonal aspects of the three sights mentioned. As you can see, this paragraph fulfills all the requirements of a well-written Developmental Paragraph, as it supports the Thesis Statement by providing three examples of beautiful sights that are living witnesses of history.

The Second Developmental Paragraph

The Topic Sentence: From the Plaines d'Abraham, it is easy to discover the majestic Saint Lawrence River.

Topic: Saint Lawrence River.

The Controlling Idea: majestic.

sentence in which this river is compared to the Mississippi introduces these as onal aspects, developed in the sentences that follow.

The third Developmental Paragraph

Topic Sentence: On the north shore of the Saint Lawrence River, five miles from Quebec, the famous Montmorency Falls are located.

The Topic: Montmorency Falls.

The Controlling Idea: famous.

To gain coherence, this paragraph also opens with a Transition that connects it to both the first and second developmental paragraphs: On the north shore of the Saint Lawrence River, five miles from Quebec. Right after the Topic Sentence, the historical aspects are presented. Then, another sentence that describes the falls. What follows is an explanation of the seasonal aspects.

The conclusion

It starts with a rhetorical question mentioning the beauty, the history, and the variety in scenery, each making reference to a different developmental paragraph. The next sentence points out the seasonal aspects. And the very last sentence simply paraphrases the Thesis Statement.

Lesson 19

Practice

Read carefully the following essay, then answer the questions

The Most Difficult Languages to Learn

It is always good to be able to speak more than one language. Polyglots are valued

assets in any company, and in general tend to be more educated and open-minded people;

at the same time, learning a foreign language is often considered difficult—a lifetime task that not everyone can accomplish. This is partially true: whereas many languages are relatively easy to learn (mostly European languages), there are several hard nuts to crack among them. Traditionally, the garland for difficulty goes to Asian languages, but there are toughies among western languages as well. Let

us take a look at the most challenging languages in terms of mastery—both for English native speakers and people of other cultural origins.

The Chinese language (precisely, both Mandarin and Cantonese dialects—the two most widely spoken ones) is probably the most difficult language to learn. According to the assessment of the Foreign Language Institute, an English native speaker might need at least 2200 hours (or 88 weeks) to start using this language more or less confidently (ELL). The most common hardship is, obviously, reading and writing: you will need to know about 3500-4000 characters in order to be able to communicate or perceive a written message. The system of characters China uses nowadays is “simplified,” but ironically, it is probably simple only for Chinese people: a foreigner will see even the simplified characters as a set of totally incomprehensible symbols. There is no alphabet in Chinese (except pinyin, a special transcription for Chinese words written in Latin letters), and instead of separate letters, it utilizes entire syllables. To make things more complicated, there are four tones in Chinese (something like intonations), so the same syllable pronounced in four different ways can respectively have four different meanings; some consonants such as “R” are pronounced in a way that might be hard for a westerner to reproduce. This is not to mention a rather peculiar syntax, extremely rigid word order, and the overall specificity of the Chinese way of thinking. All this—and lots of other smaller details—makes Chinese number one in terms of its difficulty to learn.

The Japanese language treads on the heels of Chinese. The good news about reading and writing is that you will need to learn only around 2500 characters. The bad news is everything else. Japanese culture borrowed Chinese characters about a 1,000 years ago; with true Japanese thrift, these characters were imbued with Japanese meanings and sounding, but the original sounding and semantics were not cast aside— which means that almost every character in this language has both Chinese and Japanese pronunciation and meaning, and to fully understand Japanese text, you need to know them both; many words use partially Chinese, partially Japanese sounding (the so-called “on” and “kun” readings). Japanese has the traditional, older version of Chinese characters, which basically means having to write more strokes. Also, a native English speaker might find Japanese pronunciation difficult, because many words simultaneously include extremely firm and extremely soft (and even whistling) sounds. As for the syntax, it is totally different from what you can find in European languages; verbs in this language often group at the end of a sentence.

You must have probably guessed already that number three is the Russian language. Spoken by at least 200 million people, it possesses incredibly flexible grammar, which actively uses numerous prefixes, suffixes, and endings (which change depending on a word’s gender, number, tense—altogether!). Russian pronunciation is not that difficult, but there are several unique sounds that you will hardly see in other languages (such as the mysterious vowel Ъ, which basically sounds as if someone punched you in the stomach, but you have somehow managed to calmly endure this act, and only made a brief sound). However, along with Russian, there is Hungarian—one of the few European languages that are almost impossible for a foreigner to learn. To start with, Hungarian has 35 distinct cases, with 18 of them being in use constantly. 14 vowels, a heavy dependence on all kinds of idioms and phraseology even in everyday speech,

several verb forms, and the overall complexity of pronunciation can make studying Hungarian a nightmare for a non-native person.

There are definitely other complicated languages, and listing them would take a rather long time. The first three leaders are, however, Chinese, Japanese, and Russian/Hungarian languages. Long story short, Chinese and Japanese are, in general, 100% different from any western language you probably know. As for Russian and Hungarian languages, they share third place in rating for their overly complicated grammatical structures and pronunciation, as well as for some unique features that probably no other European language possesses.

Answer the following:

- 1. Give a suitable title to the Essay?**
- 2. What type of development is this Essay? Pattern.**
- 3. What type of Introduction is it?**
- 4. Is the Introduction inviting? Explain.**
- 5. Underline the thesis statement? Is it valid? Explain.**
- 6. Underline the topic sentence in each developmental paragraph and circle its controlling idea?**
- 7. What are the Conjunctions/expressions used by the writer and why he/she used them?**

Activity 2

Appreciating Art

Throughout history, the collection and appreciation of art has mainly been the realm of the intellectual elite and the very rich. The average person quite often finds the art world a mysterious and daunting place. However, art can actually be found and

appreciated on a daily basis. You simply need to know where to look and what to look for. Most people are so caught up in the details of their daily grind, that they fail to stop

and appreciate the things around them. Taking a little time each day to appreciate art and learn the history of the art around us can be a relaxing and rewarding part of everyone's life.

So, what is art?

Art—especially fine art—can be thought of as anything that has been created

specifically for aesthetic purposes. Art generally relates to emotion and sensation, and is appreciated for

its beauty the way it makes us feel. Fine art can come

in the forms of sculpture, painting, drawing, graphics, and even architecture.

When it comes to appreciating fine art, there is no right or wrong. We have all heard the expression, 'Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.' Well, this especially holds true when it comes to looking at art.