

Exemplification Essay Instructions

Exemplification Essay Requirements:

- Language: Standard Academic English in a formal style suitable for a college paper
- Layout: MLA essay format as explained in course handouts
- Length: 650-900 words (using MLA formatting)
- Mode: Exemplification - follow the rules and guidelines for writing an exemplification essay as explained in the Exemplification Essay handout.
- Organization: Use the 3-part, thesis-driven pattern described in class lecture and handouts. This essay must have 3 body paragraphs that begin with a clear topic sentence.
- Presentation: Final draft should be edited and proofread to reflect your best effort at college-level written communication
- Research: None allowed. The prompts rely on personal or common knowledge information. Students are prohibited from writing research papers for this assignment and should choose topics that would not require outside data to prove their point.

Exemplification Writing Prompts (Choose 1):

1. The Value of Skills:

- **Prompt:** Reflect on three specific skills you have developed (e.g., playing an instrument, coding, public speaking). Provide detailed examples from your life to illustrate how you learned each skill, the challenges you faced, and the benefits you have reaped.
- **Sample Thesis:** While seemingly diverse, my experiences in mastering the guitar, learning to code, and honing my public speaking skills all demonstrate the universal value of perseverance, focused practice, and a willingness to embrace challenges in the pursuit of personal growth.

2. The Power of Mentorship:

- **Prompt:** Discuss the impact of mentors or role models in your life. Analyze three specific individuals who have influenced you, using detailed examples to demonstrate how each person has shaped your goals, values, or outlook.
- **Sample Thesis:** Through the mentorship of my dedicated basketball coach, the unwavering support of my grandmother, and the insightful guidance of a thoughtful teacher, I have gained invaluable perspectives on resilience, perseverance, and the importance of lifelong learning.

3. Defining Moments:

- **Prompt:** Reflect on three defining moments in your life (e.g., moving to a new town, overcoming a fear, achieving a significant goal). Provide vivid examples to showcase the significance of each event, the emotions it evoked, and its lasting impact on your journey.
- **Sample Thesis:** While seemingly disparate, my first solo trip abroad, the exhilarating but nerve-racking experience of conquering my stage fright, and the intense sense of

accomplishment from finally earning my driver's license all stand as defining moments in my life, shaping my independence, self-confidence, and resilience.

4. The Importance of Communication:

- **Prompt:** Analyze the importance of communication in your life. Present three distinct scenarios (e.g., resolving a disagreement with a friend, advocating for yourself in class, giving a presentation) to illustrate the different modes of communication you utilize and their effectiveness.
- **Sample Thesis:** Effective communication, whether fostering empathy through active listening, clearly expressing ideas in a disagreement, or confidently presenting information, plays a vital role in navigating life's challenges and forging strong connections.

5. The Power of Habits:

- **Prompt:** Explore the role of habits in your life. Present three specific habits (e.g., daily exercise routine, dedicated study schedule, volunteering in your community). Provide clear examples to illustrate how these habits have positively impacted your well-being, productivity, or sense of purpose.
- **Sample Thesis:** While seemingly mundane, incorporating a daily exercise routine, establishing a dedicated study schedule, and carving out time for volunteering have instilled in me a sense of discipline, enhanced my academic performance, and fostered a deeper sense of connection to my community.