
Exemplification Essay Pre-Writing Worksheet

Purpose:

This worksheet helps you move from a general idea to a focused thesis supported by strong, relevant examples.

Section 1: Topic & Initial Idea

Essay Topic (broad):

What do you want to say about this topic? (1–2 sentences):

Section 2: Draft Thesis Statement

Write a **working thesis** you will test and refine:

Draft Thesis:

- ✓ Does this thesis make a specific claim? ☐
 - ✓ Could someone reasonably disagree with it? ☐
 - ✓ Can it be proven using examples? ☐
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Section 3: Brainstorm Potential Examples

List as many examples as possible. Do not judge them yet.

Example Description Source (personal / research / news / history)

1

2

3

Example Description Source (personal / research / news / history)

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

Section 4: Evaluate Your Examples

For each example, answer the following:

Example # ____

- Does it directly support my thesis? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Is it specific and concrete? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Is it credible or relatable? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Does it add a *new* angle? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Section 5: Select Your Best Examples

Choose **4–7 strongest examples** you will use in your essay.

Final Examples Selected:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

Section 6: Refined Thesis Statement

Rewrite your thesis based on your strongest examples:

Final Thesis Statement:

You are now ready to outline your exemplification essay.

