

# Illustration Essay Planning Worksheet

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Assignment Due Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Word Count Required: \_\_\_\_\_

## STEP 1: TOPIC SELECTION

My general topic: \_\_\_\_\_

Specific aspect I'll illustrate: \_\_\_\_\_

Why this topic matters: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## STEP 2: THESIS STATEMENT DEVELOPMENT

Draft Thesis Statement:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Does your thesis:** - [ ] Make a clear claim that needs illustration? - [ ] Can be supported with multiple specific examples? - [ ] Is neither too broad nor too narrow?

\_\_\_\_\_

## STEP 3: EXAMPLE BRAINSTORMING

List ALL possible examples (aim for 10-15):

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_
11. \_\_\_\_\_
12. \_\_\_\_\_
13. \_\_\_\_\_
14. \_\_\_\_\_
15. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

#### **STEP 4: EXAMPLE SELECTION & CATEGORIZATION**

Select your **BEST 5-7** examples and categorize them:

Category/Type 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Example 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Why it's strong: \_\_\_\_\_

Example 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Why it's strong: \_\_\_\_\_

Category/Type 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Example 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Why it's strong: \_\_\_\_\_

Example 4: \_\_\_\_\_

Why it's strong: \_\_\_\_\_

Category/Type 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Example 5: \_\_\_\_\_

Why it's strong: \_\_\_\_\_

Example 6: \_\_\_\_\_

Why it's strong: \_\_\_\_\_

Example 7 (if needed): \_\_\_\_\_

Why it's strong: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## STEP 5: ESSAY STRUCTURE PLANNING

### Introduction Plan

#### Hook Strategy (circle one):

Question | Statistic | Anecdote | Quote | Surprising Fact | Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Hook draft: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Background context needed: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Thesis placement: ☐ End of intro ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Body Paragraph Organization

#### Organizational Pattern (circle one):

Order of Importance | Chronological | Categorical | Problem-Solution

Body Paragraph 1: - Topic sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

- Main example: \_\_\_\_\_

- Supporting details: \_\_\_\_\_

Body Paragraph 2: - Topic sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

- Main example: \_\_\_\_\_

- Supporting details: \_\_\_\_\_

Body Paragraph 3: - Topic sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

- Main example: \_\_\_\_\_

- Supporting details: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Paragraphs (if needed): - Topic sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

- Main example: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Conclusion Plan

Will you: - ☐ Restate thesis in fresh way - ☐ Summarize main examples briefly

- ☐ End with call to action or final thought - ☐ Connect to broader implications

Closing strategy: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## STEP 6: EXAMPLE STRENGTH CHECKLIST

For EACH example you plan to use, check:

**Example 1:** - ☐ Specific and concrete (not vague) - ☐ Directly supports thesis - ☐ Includes sufficient detail - ☐ Different from other examples - ☐ Credible/verifiable

**Example 2:** - ☐ Specific and concrete - ☐ Directly supports thesis - ☐ Includes sufficient detail - ☐ Different from other examples - ☐ Credible/verifiable

**Example 3:** - ☐ Specific and concrete - ☐ Directly supports thesis - ☐ Includes sufficient detail - ☐ Different from other examples - ☐ Credible/verifiable

*(Repeat for remaining examples)*

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## STEP 7: RESEARCH NEEDS

Do I need to research any examples? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Sources I need to find:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Citation style required: ☐ MLA ☐ APA ☐ Chicago ☐ Other:

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## STEP 8: PRE-WRITING REVIEW

Before I start drafting:

- ☐ I have a clear, focused thesis
- ☐ I have 5-7 strong, varied examples
- ☐ My examples are organized logically
- ☐ I know my introduction and conclusion strategies
- ☐ I understand the assignment requirements
- ☐ I have all necessary research/sources
- ☐ I've allocated enough time for drafting and revision

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## STEP 9: WRITING SCHEDULE

First Draft Due (self-imposed): \_\_\_\_\_

Peer Review/Feedback: \_\_\_\_\_

Revision Deadline: \_\_\_\_\_

Final Proofreading: \_\_\_\_\_

Submit Assignment: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## NOTES & REMINDERS

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## ILLUSTRATION ESSAY KEY REMINDERS:

Each example should be SPECIFIC and detailed

Use transitions between examples

Vary your example types (personal, historical, current events, etc.)

Explain HOW each example supports your thesis

Quality over quantity - fewer strong examples beat many weak ones

\_\_\_\_\_

**This worksheet was created to help you plan a successful illustration essay. Complete each section thoughtfully before beginning your draft!**