

SECOND ESSAY: EXAMPLE OR PROCESS ESSAY

See also Reinking Chapters 7 and 8, and <http://kareyperkins.com/classes/112/112modes.html>

THE EXAMPLE ESSAY

Essay writing - general introductory format: An example essay lends itself most easily to the five paragraph essay format. In class discussions, readings, and handouts we will discuss this format – having a catchy and interesting **introduction** with a clear, narrowed, and focused **thesis statement** with three supporting points, followed by a **body** with three paragraphs supporting the thesis and each of its points, and a **conclusion**. We will use this format for this first essay, the example essay – with our next two essays we will veer away from it however, so don't feel every essay you write must follow the 5 paragraph essay formula.

What is an example? An example essay uses EXAMPLES to support the thesis. Examples are illustrations of your facts or points – not the point themselves. They have a context – exist in time and place – and are particular, not general. So, the general fact that “Statistically, teenagers get into more car accidents than adults” is not an example. However, if you read or know of a teenager (George) who was in a car accident (at the intersection of Haynes Bridge and Windward Parkway on Tuesday January 8) then you have a PARTICULAR in a TIME and PLACE – and you have an example. (Be careful of logic – you need more than one example to prove your point or you have a hasty generalization). Examples are not groups, they are individual items within the group. So, the group of cars is not an example. A particular, individual car – such as a 1964 Ford Mustang – is an example of the group “cars.” The group “presidents” is not an example of anything. Bill Clinton or George Bush or Barack Obama are examples of presidents. So make sure when you write your example essay you actually use EXAMPLES.

Why use examples? Examples are particularly effective at making your point because they are PARTICULAR, usually REAL, and actually exist in the world – in time and place – and so become very persuasive (when we study development for the next essay we will study how the more specific the information, the more interesting and persuasive it is). You can use examples in any type of writing or for any rhetorical mode, not just for example essays, and your point will be stronger. For this essay, we will use only examples as a form to make our point.

Kinds of example essays. An example essay can use either one long extended example for the whole essay – or several smaller, shorter examples in each paragraph. Or, each of the three body paragraphs may consist of one example each (for three examples in the whole essay). Some example essays can be a combination of these types. The first four essays in your readings above are extended example essays, the second two readings use several smaller, shorter examples to make their main point convincing.

THE PROCESS ESSAY

Process: Process writing is “how to” writing. You explain a process or tell the reader “how to” do a process – in a series of steps, usually. A process can either be **INFORMATIVE**: explain how a process is done (how a star goes nova; how a black hole is formed) or be **DIRECTIVE**: tell the reader how to do a process (how to make good grades, how to change a tire). Unlike any other kind of formal writing, using second person, “you,” is acceptable for a directive process essay. Organize your process chronologically and divide your process into steps. Clearly differentiate your steps with transitions (First, Second, Next, Then, Finally, etc.). Make sure you know your process well – if you do not, you will not be able to write a good essay. Choose a topic you are an expert in. But make sure that you don't skip necessary steps – while you must know your process well, you must think like a beginner. Give helpful hints, reminders, and tips to help your reader do the process better. This is what makes your process essay an essay rather than merely a list of instructions.

YOUR ASSIGNMENT

For your second essay, choose to write either an example essay or a process essay. You may write on the suggested topics in your Reinking textbook (in chapters 7 and 8), or on another topic approved by me.

Post your thesis and outline online this week, and give peer reviews to at least two of your peers. Then write your essay considering the peer reviews you got on your outline, and bring THREE (3) copies of your essay to class next week.

SUBMISSION FORMAT – for final drafts

We will be doing “portfolios” of all your essay work in this class (for each essay.)

The final draft of all your essays must be submitted to me in person in a **paper two-pocket folder**. Final essays are to be turned in during class, not sent to me via email, mailbox, or eCollege iOptimize. They will be word-processed, double-spaced, with a 10 and 12 point font and 1” to 1 ½” margins. A **right-justified heading** with *your name, class and section, my name, date, and assignment name* must also be included at the top of the first page of your final draft.

For example:

Your Name Here
English 112
For Prof. Perkins
Jan 17, 2010
1st Essay: Example

The essay portfolio folder should include the final draft and previous drafts, in reverse order, as follows. Make SURE you place whatever you want graded (presumably your final draft) FIRST in the portfolio:

- **final draft (placed first in the portfolio)**

The order of the rest of the work on your essay is less important, but here is a suggestion:

- **peer review sheet filled out by your peer (in-class)**
- **revised (second iteration) essay with peer review comments (posted on-line)**
- **the first rough/peer-edited draft(s) with written editing comments from instructor or peers**
- **a thesis/outline peer reviewed (posted on-line)**
- **two methods of invention (freewriting, brainstorming, etc.)**
- **[WWW.TURNITIN.COM](http://www.turnitin.com) report**

Essay will not be accepted without a www.turnitin.com report.

Work must be **secured** in the two-pocket folder. Do **NOT** turn in your work in a manila folder/envelope or 3 ring binder; it will not be accepted in that format and you will then be marked down for lateness. Assignments received after the deadline will receive a 10-point deduction per calendar day.

Portfolio folders should **not** contain MY assignments or copies of handouts given to you or from the web. Only YOUR completed work should be included. Failure to turn in work according to specifications will result in a 10% drop in your grade on that folder, or if it is sufficiently disorganized or enough work missing, a zero will be given.