

Purpose: The purpose is to state a general statement and prove it through the use of examples and illustrations.

Introduction: The introduction states the general statement that you want to prove.

Ex.: Gender stereotypes still exist in the professional world.

Body paragraphs: The body paragraphs have specific example(s) and/or illustration(s) that establish your thesis.

Make sure that your examples/illustrations are applicable to your thesis and include particulars.

Ex.: Masculine language sometimes appears in business documents. For example, in a business document, the following statement appeared: "The employee must arrive approximately 5 to 10 minutes prior to his scheduled time." The use of "his" calls into question if this employer allows females to work there. If females do work there, the language of this document disregards their importance in the work place. This example shows that gender stereotypes still exist in career fields today.

With this type of essay, you can be more subjective about the topic, using examples from your life and your personal point of view to prove your point.

Ex.: I used to work at a law firm that gave less salary to women than to men who had the same position.

Conclusion: The conclusion restates the thesis and asserts the significance of the thesis. What is the importance or implications of what you have shown in your essay?

Example/Illustration essays should show rather than tell. What is the difference between these two terms?

Show

versus

Tell

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Dialogue | No dialogue |
| "You," the teacher singled me out from the rest of the students, "come see me after class." That tone meant trouble, and I knew it was about the paper I had plagiarized. | The teacher pointed to me and asked if I could see her after class. I knew it was about the paper I had plagiarized. |
| Sensory language | No sensory language |
| The smells of the jungle wafted to my nose, clogging it with a horrific stench of grime, sweat, and fear. | The jungle had a multitude of smells. |

Show

versus

Tell

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Description | No description |
| He smiles softly, lips curling with anticipation as he approaches the stage. Hands slightly shaking, he grabs the microphone and gives a curt nod to the piano player to begin. | He walks to the stage and begins to sing. |
| Specificity | Vagueness |
| The day she had waited for had finally arrived: graduation. She felt anxious with the slightest tinge of sadness weighing upon her. | She had a mixture of feelings that day. |

Additional Help with Example/Illustration Essay:

Fill out the boxes with your ideas

