The Example Essay

Types of Examples

- Personal experience (something you experienced yourself)
- Experience of others (something you heard about from others)
- Hypothetical examples (what might happen if…)
- Quotations (the words of some prominent person)
- Statistics (numerical examples lend a scientific, objective quality)
- Other Devices: cause/effect, comparison/contrast, analogy, etc.

Example Writing Guidelines

1. Choosing your topic
   - Take your time choosing your topic. Are you choosing what you can best write about? What most interests you?
   - Do a proper BRAINSTORM
   - Can you supply different types of examples?
2. Audience
   - Who is your intended audience?
   - What level of language, tone and examples will communicate with these persons?
3. Rough Draft
   - Do a rapid, discovery draft
   - Just get it flowing out and you'll fix later
   - Don't stop to fix things like punctuation and spelling. It'll slow you down.
5. Revise
   - Look over your rough draft
   - Do examples make up at least 50% of the content? If no, add.
   - Did you explain examples enough?
   - Does every example support your main point?
   - Are examples in order of increasing importance? Consider maybe rearranging to build climax.
6. Second Draft
   - Check for transitions, add if necessary
   - Revise awkward or unclear passages
   - Use a dictionary or thesaurus if necessary to help with diction.
7. Proofread
   - Check for grammar and spelling and punctuation
   - Proofread slowly (if your eyes move too fast, they will "see" what should be there, not necessarily what is there.

Topics for Writing

- First Impressions Can Mislead
- Sports Imitate Life
- We Learn Best From Our Mistakes
- Love Is Blind
- Technology Is a Person’s Best Friend
- Prison is a School for Criminals