

water the animals and take care of household chores. In winter, he had to get up a half an hour earlier to bring in wood for the stoves and shovel the snow out of the driveway. After helping Mom get the kids off to school, he headed out the driveway in his pickup truck to drive thirty miles to his job working for the physical plant of a large corporation. Rain or snow, he never missed a day of work. At work he did everything from installing desks to fixing electrical problems. His job kept him on his feet most of the day, and when he came home at five, he was tired, but he was never too tired to help with dinner or to complete whatever jobs needed doing around the house.

My father was also an enormously generous man. He helped out whenever anyone in our community needed a roof repaired, a fence mended, or a crop brought in. He also volunteered his time to coach our Little League baseball team and to serve as a volunteer firefighter. Not only was he generous with others, but also with his kids. He was never too busy to help out with a school project, toss a baseball with us in the front yard, or just sit on the porch swing and talk. I don't know how he found the time to do everything he did, but he believed it was his responsibility to help others.

There aren't many men like my dad, and the older I get, the more I appreciate and admire him. The old saying "Actions speak louder than words" is certainly true of my father. He didn't preach about how to be a good person, but he was one. I learned good values from watching him and from the example he set. I only hope I can set as good an example for my children.

Organization of Example or Illustration

Example or illustration paragraphs and essays begin with a general or abstract idea, which is then supported by individual examples or an extended illustration and details. In a paragraph, the supporting sentences give examples of the general idea stated in the topic sentence. In an essay, the supporting paragraphs give examples of the general idea stated in the thesis.

Thesis Statements for Example or Illustration

The thesis or topic sentence is the general statement that the examples or illustration are intended to support or illustrate.

My mother was always generous with her children.

The writer will give examples that illustrate the generosity of his or her mother.

Experience is the best teacher.

The writer will support the belief that experience is the best teacher by giving examples or by giving one long illustration.