

4. If you chose exemplification, generate a list of specific examples that support or prove your thesis.

Example: Using examples to support the statement "My uncle was a good role model," you would develop a list that might include the time he helped your father financially, the time he lost his job and started his own business, and the time he broke his favorite fly rod and didn't lose his temper. If you are writing an essay, you will need to generate a more extensive list and look for areas of similarity around which to structure paragraphs.

5. If you chose illustration, generate one or more concrete examples that support or prove your thesis and develop them in as much detail as possible.

Example: Using illustration to support the statement "Jackson Hole offers many recreational opportunities," you might recount a day you spent skiing, horseback riding, shopping, and eating in Jackson Hole. If you are writing an essay, you will need to divide your illustration into major blocks around which to structure paragraphs.

1. **Avoid giving disconnected examples.** Make sure each example is tied directly to your topic sentence or thesis. Examples are of little value if the reader doesn't see the connection between the example and the idea it is intended to illustrate. For example, if you are supporting the statement that your roommate is a neatnick, it would not be enough to state that her clothes are hung up. You might want to add that the clothes in her closet are arranged by color and are hung precisely one inch apart.

2. **Avoid trying to prove a controversial opinion with one example.** Even if it is well developed and interesting, one example is unlikely to convince your reader to share your opinion. For example, if you are trying to persuade the reader to support an optional attendance policy in college, giving an example of someone you knew who passed a class without attending regularly will not convince the reader that the majority of students could succeed without attending classes.



Select one of the topics below to develop as a paragraph or an essay.

1. Choose someone you admire and use examples or illustration to show that he/she is an excellent role model for a specific group of people such as children, athletes, musicians, businesspeople, and so on.

