Writing Techniques: Exemplification

Use examples to illustrate and develop ideas.

Why use examples?
By using examples, one may convince, amuse, and entertain the reader.

Unsupported generalizations are likely to be uninteresting, unclear, and unconvincing (see pp.99-100).

Good examples are likely to come from something you know well.

They may be specific, typical, and hypothetical. Specific examples with concrete points are powerful aids in developing ideas.

Scrutinize the book for incidents, descriptions, statements.

Conventions: a five paragraph essay with three examples presented in the middle.

Note: the types of examples are more important than their number and order. Organizing examples: time, space, emphasis.