

Exercise in Writing a Definition

Choose one of the following concepts with which you are familiar as the topic of a definition essay or paragraph. Then follow the steps below.

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| 1. An educated person | 11. Conservative |
| 2. Afterlife | 12. Liberal |
| 3. Role Model | 13. Nepotism |
| 4. Fast Food | 14. A civilized society |
| 5. Family | 15. Plagiarism |
| 6. Creativity | 16. Faith |
| 7. Business Sense | 17. Wilderness |
| 8. Oppression | 18. Narcissism |
| 9. Culture | 19. Art |
| 10. Morality | 20. Charity |

1. Once you have chosen a concept, brainstorm (e.g., freewrite, cluster, list, etc.) for at least one page about everything you know about the concept. The brainstorm will be submitted with the essay.
2. On a separate sheet of paper, create your own three-sentence definition of your concept.
3. Look up the word or words that make up the name of your concept in the dictionary, and write down the definition(s) beneath the definition you created.
4. Beneath the definitions, note comparisons and conflicts between your own definition and the dictionary's.
5. On another sheet of paper, write down four detailed examples of the concept that you have either experienced, heard of, or read about.