Sample of a paragraph developed by exemplification:

In the paragraph below, a student writer uses exemplification to develop her point about Shakespeare’s use of language in the play, Henry IV:

(1) The subordinate image of women is suggested in this passage by the way they are treated and addressed by the male characters. (2) The language Falstaff uses in addressing the hostess of the tavern, for example, echoes the treatment of women in other parts of the play. (3) In this passage, instead of apologizing to the hostess for his rudeness towards her, Falstaff says that he “forgives” (3.3.176) her and orders her with commands. (4) In addition, the brusqueness of his manner is accentuated by short, terse phrases — “go make ready,” “love thy husband,” “look to thy servants,” “cherish thy guests” and “be gone” (3.3.176-180). (5) This disrespectful treatment of women is echoed as well in Hotspur’s behavior towards his wife, Kate, when he says to her, “I love thee not; I care not for thee, Kate” (2.3.90-91) and when he expresses his distrust of her simply because she is a woman (2.3.107-111). (6) Still another woman in the play, Lady Mortimer, experiences the same treatment when she is referred to as “a peevish self-willed harlotry” (3.1.198) by her father, Owen Glendower. (7) Overall, the men in this passage speak of and to the women in ways that suggest women must submit to disrespectful and dominating behavior by men. (Adapted from an essay by Angeline Chan, used with permission.)

○ In this paragraph, the author opens with a general statement about the author’s portrayal of women in the passage under study,
○ and then, the writer provides her first example from the text.
She goes on in sentence (3) to give a more specific example, and then, supports her example in sentence (4) with quotes. In sentences (5) and (6), she gives two other examples, and finally, in sentence (7), the writer concludes and sums up the idea presented in her topic sentence.