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Step 6 - Paragraph Improvement

When you have a good topic for your readers, you can start to improve it by adding more details. Look at the paragraphs below and see how the writer changed and improved them. In this case, you are the reader. Which version do you prefer? Why?

✗ I have a cat.



The reader is not sure what to think.



✓ I have a large ginger cat with big eyes and a long tail.



Writer and reader the same Good!



Please watch the video on [EnglishClip.com/ Writing Step 6](https://www.englishclip.com/Writing-Step-6), it will make it much easier for you.

Read these paragraphs and see how they have been improved by adding more information to help the reader.

My Journey To Work (1)

My journey to work is bad. I leave the house early. I go to the station by bicycle. It takes fifteen minutes. The train is crowded. I feel tired.

My Journey To Work (2)

My journey to work is awful. I have to leave the house very early. It takes fifteen minutes to the station by bicycle. The train is always very crowded with students and business people. The air is bad. When I get to work, I am exhausted.

My Journey To Work (3)

My journey to work is truly awful. I have to leave the house at six in the morning. In the winter, it is still dark, and I feel a little bit afraid. It takes fifteen minutes to get to the station by bicycle. I hate it when it rains as it is difficult to keep dry. The train is always completely crowded with students and business people, so I can never get a seat. Sometimes it is so full that I cannot read my book. The air is smelly and humid because nobody will open a window. When I get to work, I am exhausted, stressed, and ready to go home. To do that of course, I would have to get on the train again.

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Step 6 Paragraph Improvement - Think about your readers!

Toilet Horror (1)

A few years ago, I went fishing near Tokyo. I met a nice guy by the lake, and he asked me to dinner with his family the next weekend. The next Saturday, we had a great meal. Later, I excused myself and went to the restroom. I thought I could hear rain outside, and opened the window to see. When I did this, something fell and broke the toilet. I felt so bad telling them what had happened. I will never forget it.

Good paragraph, all the sentences fit the topic sentence. It needs a bit more information to help the readers visualize and enjoy the story.

Toilet Horror (2)

A few years ago, I was fishing at Sagami Lake with my girlfriend, just outside Tokyo. We made friends with a guy called Paul, who lived nearby. He invited us for dinner the next weekend at his home. On Saturday evening, we went by motorbike to his house, where his wife had made some delicious dishes. After the meal, I excused myself and went to the restroom. I thought I could hear it raining outside, so I opened the window to see. As I did that, I knocked something, small but heavy, off the windowsill. There was a loud noise, and when I looked down the toilet was broken. A large V-shaped piece, bigger than my hand had broken off the front of the toilet and was lying on the floor. I could not believe my eyes. I was shocked, I felt like I was having a bad dream and that I would wake up soon, but I didn't. Could it be fixed, I thought? I held the piece back into place and thought about super glue. No, it would never be fixed. I went downstairs and tried to explain what had happened to Paul. They never invited us again, and I still feel guilty, when I think of it now.

Story Structure

1. When, where, who and what was happening at the time
2. Information that tells how the incident could happen
3. What happened
4. How you felt
5. What happened after and looking back