

Important: You are just barely beginning a story, not writing a complete story. The complete story would require 300 pages from start to finish. Zoom in on just one detail in your first paragraph of that story—an object, a place, a mood, an event, a person—some detail triggered by what's in the author's sentence you chose from this list.

SAMPLE PAPER

Before drafting your own paragraph, study the appositives (*italicized*), absolutes (underlined), and participles (**bolded**) to analyze how the writer developed details through those three tools.

Heat

(1) Jan lay silent, **scarcely breathing**, ears straining for the slightest sound. (2) A look of eerie concentration upon his face, he scanned the surrounding area, **looking for any signs of movement**. (3) **Scanning**, he saw no movement, nothing except the trees and the wide open fields of an endless forest. (4) **Untouched**, the snow-covered ground glistened in the morning light, and the trees, a line-up of black skeletons on the horizon, swayed noisily in the wind. (5) Jan continued to scan the area, his face turning red from the bitter cold, a nasal drip running out of his nose and freezing on his upper lip. (6) **Trying to make as little noise as possible**, a secret hunter awaiting his prey, he reached his hand into his back pocket and pulled out a handkerchief, an already very messy piece of cloth, and wiped his runny nose. (7) **Stretched back to place the soiled rag into his back pocket**, his hand moved quickly back and forth on his pants, **creating just enough heat to relieve his numb fingers from their pain for a few more minutes**. (8) The bitter cold was now invading his layered clothing, special outfitters stuff for hunters bought from the Land's End catalog, and most of his body was becoming numb, mainly his hands, his feet, his arms, his legs, and his face. (9) **Covered in four layers of clothing with no chance of beating the cold**, his body was stiffening from the bitter cold. (10) Jan struggled to deny what was happening, the terror of freezing, but couldn't. (11) **Determined to persist in hope**, he remained vigilant, eyes and ears alert for any movement or sound from beyond the thicket. (12) **Buried halfway in snow**, Jan scanned the environment and fixated on a rustling sound in a nearby bush. (13) **Shaking back and forth**, whatever it was seemed possessed by some frantic need, perhaps a desperate foraging for food. (14) He watched closely, eyes unwaveringly fixed on the target, and reached slowly for the rifle beside him. (15) He held it firmly with both hands, his left hand balancing it, his right hand placed on the trigger. (16) As a deer emerged, a small brown fawn with white spots and a furry white tail, he centered his aim on the source of the rustling in the bush, his knife ready to plunge into the fawn's body to open its warm guts, a furnace to warm his own freezing body. (17) The deer appeared alert for predators, its head rotating spasmodically back and forth, searching the ground for anything that could fill its empty stomach, the forest bereft of leaves, of pine needles, of anything that might resemble the usual stuff to sustain a deer's life. (18) Jan, **trying not to startle the creature into bolting**, slowly crept closer for a better angle and a sure shot, a precise bead from which to fell the animal, and, then from the warmth of its innards, restore his own body's warmth. (19) **Slowly raising his rifle, the deer within his sight and close enough for the kill**, Jan pulled the trigger. The forest echoed the blast, then suddenly stilled. (20) The animal fell, twitching on its side, its legs kicking in useless protest against the uncaring snow, blood oozing from the deer's head and reddening and staining the pure snow. (21) Jan, **feeling a rush of sadness**, pulled out his knife from its sheath, the sadness replaced by heat lust.