PARAGRAPH DEVELOPMENT EXERCISES: PROBLEM TO ANSWER

This type of paragraph development is similar to cause and effect. The idea is to set up a problem or a question, consider some possible solutions which are rejected, and then come to a solution to the problem.

EXAMPLE:

This weekend is my brother’s surprise birthday party, and I only have two dollars available to spend on a gift. I could raid my sister’s wallet, but she’d know instantly who took her money. My folks aren’t even worth approaching; I’d just get a long lecture on financial responsibility, so that’s out. I could take the two dollars I have and buy lottery tickets, but with my luck I’d just lose what I’ve got. Maybe I should avoid the party and just say that I’ve developed an instant case of the flu or sprained my ankle, but then my brother would be disappointed, and I can’t handle his disappointment. He gets so quiet and won’t even complain—his response would make me feel even worse. I guess I’ll just have to explain that his present will be belated this year.

WRITING EXERCISE:

Using about half a dozen sentences, develop a paragraph which starts out with a problem or a question and then, after considering three or four ideas, comes to a solution or answer.