PARAGRAPH DEVELOPMENT EXERCISE: SIMPLE TO COMPLEX

The "simple to complex" paragraph is much like the "familiar to unfamiliar" paragraph (see Writing and Reading Center worksheet #54). Here, the writer develops a topic sentence with material that becomes increasingly complex, moving from simple to more difficult ideas.

EXAMPLE:

Moving out of my parents' home and getting my own place meant making major changes in life style. The first thing I noticed was the empty space in the refrigerator and the absence of all those little snacky things from the kitchen shelf. In addition, all sorts of supplies that I took for granted weren't there: no clean towels, no toothpaste, no Ziploc bags, no clean dishes for the taking. Drawers and cupboards seemed strangely empty. Soon I was painfully aware that clothes didn't wash themselves, beds didn't make themselves, and dust accumulated with amazing consistency. The phone didn't ring as often as it had at home when several of us were receiving calls, and the mail generally was junk ads or bills. Even though I was busy shopping, cooking, cleaning, and working to pay the bills, I found myself bored. Worst of all, I couldn't just walk into the next room and start complaining; there wasn't anyone to hear my gripes! In every way, I was on my own.

WRITING EXERCISE:

Now try writing a paragraph of your own in which you explain a situation, concept, or event. Begin with a topic sentence that identifies the situation, concept, or event. Support the topic sentence by giving your reader specific details that are simple; then move the reader to ideas that are more complex.