

The E's – The Reds

The E's are the reds—stop and explain. The E's add interest to your paper and help your reader understand your ideas. Always ask yourself if you have enough red or have explained your key/star ideas. Check to see if you have included specific examples, or presented enough evidence.

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| • Explanations | • Elaboration |
| • Experiences | • Everyday life |
| • Examples | • Expert opinions |
| • Events | • Exact information |
| • Evidence | • Effective illustrations |

Your informal outline will help you with the E's.

Topic = Aerial Artists

☆ rope artists

- twists and spins
 - leg and arm strength
- hang upside down
 - support from feet

← **E's**

☆ artists on
swinging bars

- release
- fly through the air
- catch one another

← **More
E's**

Conclusion = Big risks

The E's

In an accordion paragraph or essay, you are asked to **Stop and Explain** your key/star ideas. Using the letter **E** and words that begin with **E** may give you some ideas for improving the elaboration you add to your paragraphs (and essays).

Explain	<p>One of my sons provides supplies to automotive repair shops. He carries small-item supplies such as paint buckets, lightbulbs, and sandpaper.</p> <p>from <i>Flight of the Buffalo</i> by James A. Belasco and Ralph C. Stayer</p>
Elaborate	<p>I'm convinced that fear is the root of most bad writing. If one is writing for one's own pleasure, that fear may be mild—timidity is the word I've used here. If, however, one is working under a deadline—a school paper, a newspaper article, the SAT writing sample—that fear may be intense.</p> <p>from <i>On Writing—A Memoir of the Craft</i> by Stephen King</p>
Evidence	<p>Not since the days of Andrew Jackson had life in the White House been so informal and easygoing. The second-floor living quarters were cluttered with family mementos and comfortable old furniture, some of it brought down from old Hyde Park. Books and magazines were strewn about everywhere. The president's Scottish terrier, Fala, romped through the halls, greeted visitors, and slept in the master's room at night.</p> <p>from <i>Franklin Delano Roosevelt</i> by Russell Freedman</p>
Expert Opinion	<p>But most of the 30 teachers at the Academy defend the system. "Because the discipline is so strong, I don't have to spend time putting out fires," says reading instructor Elizabeth Weston. "I can really get down to the exciting business of teaching."</p> <p>from "Asian Imports" by Patti Hartigan <i>Teacher Magazine</i>, January 2002</p>

(continued)

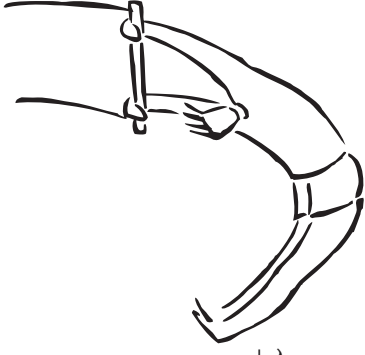
The E's (continued)

<p style="text-align: center;">Examples</p>	<p>Nothing is more remarkable in Shakespeare than his ability to take confused plots and outworn situations and make them over into something altogether new and enchanting. <i>Twelfth Night</i> makes use of all the devices that were ancient when he wrote the <i>Two Gentlemen of Verona</i>: the lovesick hero wilting over his unapproachable lady, the girl dressed as a man who pleads her lover's suit with her rival, and even the device of the twins who are mistaken for each other . . ."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">from <i>An Introduction to Shakespeare</i> by Marchette Chute.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Effective Illustration</p>	<p>Paved roads are scarce in the desert. Much of the way there were none, and we were forced to navigate by compass. Driving on sand, the truck often lost traction and came to a halt. Luckily, the sand mats we carried with us work well. We would get out of the truck, shove the mats under the wheels, and push the truck with all our might.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">from <i>Come with Me to Africa—A Photographic Journey</i> by Gregory Scott Kreikemeier</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Everyday Experience</p>	<p>What is equally maddening about the visit of your child to some distant home is the call you get from the mother or father there telling you how lovely and helpful your child has been.</p> <p>"I just can't tell you what a polite young gentleman he is," the mother says. "He straightened the room and he made his bed and he even offered to do the dishes."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">from <i>Fatherhood</i> by Bill Cosby</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Exact Information</p>	<p>Saturn has the most moons of any planet in the solar system. More than twenty have been discovered, and there are probably more. Saturn has one large moon, six that are medium-sized, and at least fourteen smaller ones. Most of Saturn's moons are ice-covered and pockmarked with craters.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">from <i>Our Solar System</i> by Seymour Simon</p>

The E's—The Reds

The Best at the Circus

Many believe as I do that the most impressive acts at the circus are the aerial artists. Aerial rope artists swing and twist by using their arms and legs. **With incredible strength and at unbelievable speeds, they spin around and around. The speeds and the heights would make most people extremely dizzy. These artists hang upside down for long periods of time. They support themselves by wrapping their feet around the rope. Just as impressive are the trapeze artists. They swing back and forth across the top of the circus tent, making release after release. They fly through the air aiming for another trapeze or the hands of another artist. Circus acts of all kinds entertain the audience, but the aerial artists who seem to take the biggest risks draw the most attention.**



Example

Evidence

Example

Explanation →

Evidence →

Elaboration in Essays/Reports

Topic = Aerial Artists

☆ rope artists

- twists and spins
 - leg and arm strength
- hang upside down
 - support from feet

☆ artists on
swinging bars

- release
- fly through the air
- catch one another

The Best at the Circus

Each year, I head off to the circus with my family. It's a tradition. I tried to rebel when I turned thirteen and was too cool to be seen with my family, but it didn't work. After watching circuses for so many years, I have become a circus fan. I've learned to appreciate the talent of the performers.

This year was no exception. New and exciting acts were added. Many, like me, left believing that the most impressive acts were the aerial artists.

I watched aerial rope artists, hanging at amazing heights, swing and twist by using their arms and legs. **With incredible strength and at unbelievable speeds, they spun around and around. The speeds and the heights would make most people extremely dizzy—not this group.** For long periods of time, they hung upside down. They supported themselves by wrapping their feet around the rope. Throughout their performance they smiled and greeted the cheering crowds.

Just as impressive were the trapeze artists. **They swung back and forth across the top of the circus tent making release after release. They flew through the air aiming for another trapeze or the hands of another artist. Spectators, including me, jumped and screamed when it looked like they would miss. At one point six trapeze artists were flying back and forth. It was almost impossible to guess which flyer was responsible for catching and which was looking for a place to land. Music, choreographed to fit the act, filled the arena—adding to the excitement.**

Circus artists of all kinds deserve recognition for their work and effort. But the aerial artists who take the biggest risks seem to draw the most attention.

Blue Lead
Green Intro.
Yellow Key/Star Idea Red Elaboration
Yellow Key/Star Idea Red Elaboration
Green Conclusion