



## Writing Essentials - Prewriting Strategy

### ELABORATION

## Annotated Elaboration Strategies

### Lesson 2, Teacher Resource 1

1. **Anecdotes** –a short personal narrative inserted into an essay that develops an idea or argument.

Example:

*I was at the airport, drinking my coffee, wondering why I had booked such an early flight home, when a man appeared out of nowhere and began screaming into his cell phone that “the fools” at the gate area would not give him the seat he was always assigned, It was **his** seat, after all, in the emergency exit row. He **always** sat there.*

2. **Scenario** –hypothetical situation or event.

Example:

*If this law comes to pass, I have a couple of wishes. I want whoever votes to allow cell phones on planes to take a flight with the young man who threw the fit at sunrise in Las Vegas. And I want them to sit right next to him. But not in **his** emergency row. I want him to be unhappy and calling people to tell them so.*

3. **Examples** –provide more specific information about an idea.

Example:

*He was gone-maybe angry gods swept him away, or the security guards shuffled him out, or maybe his own two feet were embarrassed for him and carried him off.*

4. **Definition** –restate an unfamiliar word or phrase to tell what it means.

Example:

*The cell phone jerk **justified** his behavior. By that I mean, he let himself off the hook for any blame or guilt in the matter. It wasn't **his** fault.*

5. **Statistics and Facts** –the numbers (data) and information that help support your idea or argument.

Example:

*A number of airlines are looking into the possibility of cell phones being allowed in flight. The Federal Communications Commission and the Federal Aviation Administration have to agree before it can happen, but reports indicate it could come to pass as early as next year.*

6. **Quotation** –words someone says that can help support your idea or argument.

Example:

*“He found an “easy” target by calling the airline’s customer service number,” remarked a woman standing next to me, ready to board the plane.*

7. **Description** –a way to create vivid images for the reader. Show, not just tell, your reader. Be specific with your word choice. Try to create an image that appeals to your reader’s senses.

Example:

*I know this because he was telling not only the person on the phone, but also all of us in the 702 area code.*

8. **Dialogue** –conversation that moves along an event, develops characters, add description.

Example:

*The gate agent said, “I haven’t seen anyone his age, or size, throw such a temper tantrum in a long time.”*

*I added, “I’m not sure I’ve ever seen anyone throw such a tantrum.*

9. **Inference**- following a story or list of facts, the writer adds it all up and makes a comment. If this is all true, then I think this must be so.

Example:

*I haven’t seen anyone his age, or size throw such a temper tantrum in a long time. In fact, I’m not sure I’ve ever seen anyone throw such a tantrum.*