

## #5 MY MISTAKE

### SKILL: ORGANIZATION

It may take you three days to learn to:

1. Admit that you did something that was a mistake
2. Analyze what you did
3. Recognize the action that caused the mistake

### PREWRITING

#### Day One:

We all make mistakes. (See?) This isn't a bad thing to do. It's how we learn. If we didn't make mistakes, we wouldn't learn.

Here are the steps you'll use to write this paper:

1. **Name a mistake** you've made.
2. **List the actions** that led to the mistake.
3. **Decide** which actions caused the mistake.
4. Figure out what you **could have done** to avoid the mistake.
5. **Describe the changes** you'll make in your actions so you won't make that same mistake again.

I did this exercise for a mistake I made. I numbered the above points in the paragraph so you could see how they fit. I labeled the topic sentence (TS).

*(TS) Last night I made a mistake as I was helping my wife do the dishes. I carried the dishes from the table to the counter. When I piled the dinner plates on the counter, (2) I didn't take the silverware off the plates first. This made the plates wobbly. (1) When I put the fourth plate on the stack on the counter and turned back for another load, the top plate slipped off the pile and broke on the floor. (3) It was leaving the knives and forks on the plates that caused them to tip off the counter. (4) They should have been taken off each plate as it was stacked. (5) If my wife lets me help her do the dishes again, I'll put the silverware to one side when I stack the plates.*

**Day Two:**

Here is the list of steps I developed when I analyzed my mistake:

- 1. I carried piles of dirty dishes from the table to the counter.*
- 2. I didn't take the silverware off the plates before I piled them on the counter.*
- 3. I put another plate on top of the pile of plates that still had silverware on them.*

Make a short list on other paper of mistakes you've made sometime in the past.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Ask your parent to look at this list and help you pick out a mistake that would be easy for you to analyze. Make a list, like below, of the actions that you took in making that mistake. This list doesn't need to be in sentences. Use words or phrases if you want to.

- 1. Carried pile of dishes to counter*
- 2. Didn't remove silverware*
- 3. Piled plates on each other with silverware on them*

List the actions that led to your mistake on a separate sheet similar to the listing above. These don't have to be full sentences.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Day Three:**

Turn yesterday's list of actions into complete sentences.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Write a topic sentence that tells your reader what your paragraph is about. It can be like mine when I wrote that I made a mistake when I was helping my wife. (Try a *compound sentence* using just a *semicolon*.)

Below is a chart showing what this paper should look like when you're finished.

(Your Name)	
(Date)	
(Skip two spaces)	
Exercise #5: My Mistake	
(Skip one line)	
(List of Actions Causing Mistake)	
1.	3.
2.	4.
(Action List Turned Into Sentences)	
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
(Topic sentence for the paragraph):	
(Indent your topic sentence)	
(Page numbers bottom center & even margins all around)	

Fill out the "Record of Progress" on the next page. I recommend you now take a week off from writing and concentrate on reading and discussing ideas with your parents.

## RECORD OF PROGRESS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Exercise #5 MY MISTAKE

This is the best sentence I wrote this week.

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This mistake I made this week and I will not make it next week.

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This is the sentence that had this mistake in it.

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This is the sentence again showing how I fixed this mistake.

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Comments: