

Chapter 2 Now What?

Now that you have found a topic and supporting points, this is all you need to do:

1. Tell first, and then show.
2. Show with your personal experience. If you don't have personal history to fit the topic, borrow from media events like the first atomic bomb explosion, the Berlin Wall, and 9/11 (but discuss your **PERSONAL** experience of the events: "When I saw the video of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, the emotion I felt was almost indescribable..."). Or, you can tap the resources of books, movies, plays, etc. (But, again, your personal reaction to these: "Like Harry Potter, I am fond of riding on brooms.")
3. Show with logic: subordinate your ideas logically and keep to the point.
4. Show with simple and vivid language—learn from poets.
5. Show with coherence: look for logical ways of organization such as
 - a. chronological order (start with what happens at the beginning of the time, then move toward the end, or vice versa).
 - b. size (begin with a mouse and move towards an elephant, or from an



**Allegedly
elephants fear
mice.**

elephant to a mouse, bearing in mind that it is not wise to mix elephants with mice.)

- c. Order of importance.
- d. If the topic prompts a comparison, write similarities and then differences.
- e. If the topic asks the two sides of the coin, discuss advantages first, and then disadvantages.

6. Show with proper grammar: use a variety of the three basic sentence types (simple sentence, compound sentence, and complex sentence), but **KEEP ALL ELEMENTS SHORT**. Take no chances. Do not get fancy.

7. Show with a variety of punctuation, such as ; : , () — — . Parenthetical information can keep you out of the deep doo doo with commas, especially commas.

a. However, no exclamation marks whatsoever, not even in dialogue—usually.

b. Be very careful with brackets []. They are to be used only inside quotations, to insert your own words.