Student Sample

Mr. Milligan

English 11 B

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The Pilot Killer

Pay attention to how the writer includes all relevant details and how every detail appears in a coherent order. One idea leads logically to the next one. Everything is clearly explained.

[Sidebar Title]

Notice how the paragraph begins with a clear topic sentence.

7. Steve Deever is in prison because of a crime he committed during the war. During the war Steve and Joe were partners in a manufacturing plant that built cylinder heads for P-40 fighter planes. They had a contract with the Army Air Force and during the war effort they were working very hard to keep up with the Air Force’s demand for the cylinder heads. Truckload after truckload of airplane parts were being hauled away from the plant and used in planes for the war effort. One day a batch of cylinder heads came out with hairline cracks, which meant that they would be one half day behind in production. Steve Deever, because of the pressure to get the parts out, took his tools and welded over the cracks, thinking that the welds would hold up when the cylinder heads were installed in airplanes. He did not tell the Army Air Force about the defective parts. However, the cylinder heads did not hold up in the P-40s, which caused the deaths of twenty-one pilots when their planes crashed in Australia. Because Steve and Joe were business partners, both men were charged for the crime and sentenced to time in prison. Joe was later exonerated and released from prison because he appealed his conviction. In the appeal Joe made it clear that he was not in the shop the day the cracked cylinder heads were produced and that is was Steve who decided to weld over the cracks and ship out the defective cylinder heads. After Joe’s release he was able get his own shop up and running again and is now a successful businessman. Steve Deever is in prison in Columbus because he was found guilty of producing and knowingly shipping defective cylinder heads to the Air Force, which caused the death of twenty-one pilots. [305 words]

The paragraph ends with a clearly worded summary sentence that is clearly connect to the topic sentence.