

Sample Model Essay Excerpt

Exploding the Moment from “Sisters” by Jan Wilson

Exploding the moment is the concept of showing the details of an event rather than just summarizing the events. Read the two versions of the same incident and then ask them which is more powerful.

“Sisters” by Jan Wilson

Version 1:

I was so mad at my sister that I couldn't stand it. I grabbed the carton of milk from the table and dumped it right over her head. It went all over her and the floor. Her clothes were soaked. She was so shocked that she couldn't talk for a minute. Then she yelled for my dad. I knew I was in trouble now.

Version 2:

I watched myself begin this horrible deed. My hand seemed to suddenly have a will of its own. It picked up the milk carton, the spout was already open. My arm extended over Carol's head, tipping the carton. The liquid poured in a slow, steady, thick, unending stream down through her long, blonde hair, soaking the back of her clothes and drumming onto the floor. As the milk reached the floor, I shifted the spout to begin another long, milky journey down the front of her. It poured over her head, in her eyes, running in rivers down each side of her nose, converging on her chin, and splashing into her plate