

My job in an Apple Plant

Working in an apple plant was the worst job I ever had. First of all, the work was physically hard. For ten hours a night, I took cartons that rolled down a metal track and ~~stacked~~ stacked them onto wooden skids in a tractor trailer. Each carton contained twenty-five pounds of bottled apple juice, and they came down the track almost nonstop. The second bad feature of the job was the pay. I was getting the minimum wage at that time, \$3.65 an hour, plus a quarter extra for working the night shift. I had to work over sixty hours a week to get decent take-home pay. Finally, I hated the working conditions. We were limited to two ten-minute breaks and an unpaid half hour for lunch. Most of my time was spent outside on the loading dock in near-zero-degree temperatures. I was very lonely on the job because I had no interests in common with the other truck loaders. I felt this isolation especially when the production line shut down for the night, and I spent two hours by myself

Cleaning the apple vats. The vats were an ugly place to be on a cold morning, and the job was a bitter one to have.

Activity 1: The paragraph on the apple plant, like almost any piece of effective writing, has two essential parts: ① a point is advanced, and ② that point is then supported. Taking a minute to outline the paragraph will help you understand these basic parts clearly. Add the words needed to complete the outline.

Point: Working in an apple plant is the worst job I ever had.

Reason 1: The work was physically hard.

a. Loading cartons onto skids for ten hours a night.

b. Each cartons contained twenty-five pounds of bottled apple juice and came down almost nonstop.

Reason 2: The pay was very low.

a. Getting the minimum wage, \$3.65 an hour, plus a quarter extra for the night shift.

b. Had to work sixty hours for decent take-home pay.

Reason 3: The working conditions were bad.

a. Two ten-minute breaks and an unpaid lunch.

b. Most time spent outside on the loading dock in near-zero-degree temperature.

c. Loneliness on job

(1) No interests in common with other workers.

(2) By myself for two hours cleaning the apple ~~was~~ vats.