

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 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: _____

- a. Loaded cartons onto skids for ten hours a night
- b. _____

Reason 2: _____

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

Reason 3: _____

- a. Two ten-minute breaks and an unpaid lunch
- b. _____
- c. Loneliness on job
 - (1) No interests in common with other workers
 - (2) By myself for two hours cleaning the apple vats

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Activity 1

- Point: Working in an apple plant is the worst I ever had.
- Reason 1: Work was physically challenging
 - a) Loaded cartons onto skids for ten hours a night.
 - b) Cartons came non-stop, each weighing about twenty-five pounds.
- Reason 2: Dismal pay
 - a) paid minimum wage - \$3.65 an hour and a quarter extra for night shifts.
 - b) Had to work sixty hours for decent take-home pay.
- Reason 3: Terrible Working Conditions
 - a) Two ten-minute breaks and an unpaid lunch.
 - b) Most time spent on the loading dock in sub-zero temperatures.
 - c) Loneliness on job.