

Structuring your writing

- Think about your topic and read what others have said about it.
- Begin with a statement that tells what you believe.
- Insert a paraphrase, summary, or direct quotation from a source that confirms, proves, or explains your belief.
- Explain the importance of the source material.
- Explain the connection between your belief and the source material.

Example from your family history

Statement that tells what you believe

Uncle Hiram was right! Ants can be controlled by drawing a chalk line! As Edgar Smith (2012) explains in his book, *Pesky Pests*, "When ants are on the move, they create a pheromone trail for other ants to follow. Drawing the chalk line breaks up the pheromones, dispersing the army of ants from their march" (p. 21).

Direct quotation from an expert that confirms your belief

Importance of the source material

Uncle Hiram watched ants engage in this behavior but never knew what caused the behavior. Uncle Hiram proved for me that there is a high level of accuracy in old family tricks that have been passed down from one generation to the next. Individuals may not always be aware of the "why" things work, but they certainly understand "how" things work!

Connection between your belief and the source