

## Figure 11.2 Revising Your Personal Narrative

Now you are in the revising stage of your “Important Moment” paper. You hope your reader will feel the impact of this moment the way you did. Here’s how you can help your reader: Focus on some scenes leading up to the important moment—as if you are a cameraperson zooming in for a close-up shot. If you give the reader details of how your body language is affected in these moments, you will keep your readers’ attention and help them feel like they are part of the story.

- ◆ Are you tightening your fingers around the golf club?
- ◆ Are you reaching your fingers into your pocket, searching for a lost key?
- ◆ Are you leaning forward in your chair so you can hear the results of the contest?
- ◆ Are you curling your toes around the starting block on the edge of the pool?

When you help your reader visualize with vivid details like these, you will produce a more successful paper. You will also create more sentence variation if you write some of these details with participial phrases the way we have practiced in class.

Here are some examples of sentences that use the details above in sentences with participial phrases.

- ◆ Tightening my fingers around the golf club, I readied myself for the putt.
- ◆ Reaching my fingers into my pocket, I frantically searched for the lost car key.
- ◆ Leaning forward in my chair, I strained to hear the names of the winners.
- ◆ Curling my toes around the starting block, I stood waiting to dive into the water.

Your job is to locate three important moments in the first draft of the story and add body-language details to make the scene more vivid. Use participial phrases like the examples above to achieve sentence variation. Underline at least four sentences where you have used participial phrases to increase the detail or provide sentence variation.