time. Even then, I very nearly missed my flight. What I hadn’t bargained on was how much longer it would take to get through security. Taking off my coat, jacket, and shoes and unpacking my laptop was awkward enough. The real problem was trying to get my shoes back on while juggling all my clothes and my computer. Balancing on one foot and then the other, my shoes proved almost impossible to wedge onto my feet one-handed. (3)

The flight itself was uneventful, though not very pleasant. Seated in the middle seat, it seemed like the flight lasted forever. One thing that had changed since the last time I have flown was the lack of leg room. Even being of only average height, my legs did not fit into the space. I thought that was pretty bad; then the person in front of me reclined his seat to the maximum. The top of his seat was about 12 inches from my face. I quickly discovered that I could not read. Holding my book so close to my face, my eyes could not focus on the page. Nevertheless, I lived to tell the tale and even survived the return flight. (3)

**Editing Practice**

Correct all errors in the following paragraphs using the first correction as a model. The number in parentheses at the end of each paragraph indicates how many errors you should find.

Annoyed by the swarm of students trying to buy textbooks, *Jacquita was not having a good day.* While trying to register for classes earlier in the week, a computer glitch occurred. As a result, she had to register for new classes. Unable to take the classes she had originally wanted, replacements were necessary, and Jacquita had to return her old books to buy new ones. (2)
Now, she was back in the bookstore along with dozens of other students. Searching for used textbooks, Jacquita had to compete with other students wanting the same books. Her new classes also required more books. After finding all of the books she needed, a long line of students waiting at the register confronted Jacquita. Frustrated by the slow pace, another register opened up, but a dozen students stepped in front of her as she moved to the new line. Jacquita decided that next semester she would register earlier in case another computer glitch occurred. (2)

**Applying What You Know**

Introductory elements can always be deleted because they are not grammatically necessary. However, they are commonly used because they add useful information. Write a paragraph describing an awkward or embarrassing classroom experience. Try to write it without using introductory elements. Now, go back and add useful information in the form of introductory elements. Add at least three, and put a comma after each one. Use the Illogical Action Tip to make sure you avoid dangling modifiers.

| The Bottom Line | Using a little caution, you can avoid dangling modifiers. |