1. The chef forgot to include basil in making the spaghetti sauce. This caused the meal to be bland and led to a bad review in Food magazine.

**Answer 1:** This **mistake** caused the meal to be bland and led to a bad review in Food magazine.

**Answer 2:** This **miniscule oversight** caused the meal to be bland and led to a bad review in Food magazine.

**Answer 3:** This **gross omission** caused the meal to be bland and led to a bad review in Food magazine.

**Teaching Tip:** There is an infinite number (or at least very many) of plausible answers. The key is for the student to think about the intended purpose. Is it to slant the tone in favor of the chef, as in Answer 2? Or is it to cast the chef in a severely negative light, as in answer 3? Answer 1 maintains a certain neutrality while still being clear.

2. Mary Ellen made the honor roll, won an essay contest, and was admitted to Mu Alpha Theta. This improved her chances of being admitted to a top university.

**Answer 1:** **These** **accomplishments** improved her chances of being admitted to a top university.

3. Maria waits until the last minute to do everything. This causes her to lose out on financial aid and lose the classes she needs to take.

**Answer 1:** This **procrastination** causes her to lose out on financial aid and lose the classes she needs to take.

4. Xavier always completed his assignments on time, never complained about coworkers, and seldom took any sick time. This led to his promotion.

**Answer 1:** This **positive attitude** led to his promotion.

5. Marble Slab Creamery offers waffle cones, wafer cones, several ice cream flavors, and many different toppings. This is what makes their ice cream so delicious.

**Answer 1:** **These options** make their ice cream so delicious.

6. Alicia forgot she had to take care of her little sister and went out with her friends instead. This got her in trouble with her mom.

**Answer 1:** This **negligence** got her in trouble with her mom.

7. Our server did not bring drink refills, communicated our order wrongly to the chef, and sat down to speak with other guests while we waited for our check. This kept her from getting a generous tip.

**Answer 1:** This **poor service** kept her from getting a generous tip.

**Answer 2:** These **transgressions** kept her from getting a generous tip.