The Specific Example
or, "can you be trusted?"

The specific example sentence is essential as it allows you to show your idea is supported by hard evidence, thus making it credible. It is best to draw your examples from somewhere specific – a reliable, trustworthy and traceable source. Written texts, research documents, films, primary sources are all appropriate. The psychedelic musings of your philosophical buddies, whilst maybe interesting, are not so appropriate.

Make your example as specific as possible. "In The Muppet Movie, Kermit the Frog says..."as opposed to "A frog was once overheard to say..."

Think back to the topic:

Will machines overpower the human race?

My paragraph so far reads:

Machines can not overpower humans as they are inventions made and controlled by humans. Machines are created and produced by humans. Their potential to complete a task is determined and designed by a human creator, not by the machine itself.

My specific example will be:

The automatic teller machine allows bank customers to withdraw and deposit money because Ethel Rainbow, the creator, designed it to do so. Conversely, it can not count the coins from a child's piggy bank because that was not part of its programming.

(Disclaimer: Ethel Rainbow is my creation – I have no idea who the real inventor was. This is for illustrative purposes)