

- **Description of Assignment:** More than any other type of essay, descriptive essays strive to create a deeply involved and vivid experience for the reader. Great descriptive essays achieve this effect not through facts and statistics but by using detailed observations and descriptions. Your assignment is to create a formal essay with a descriptive focus. Through prewriting, narrow your topic down to a specific subject: Decide on something you know well and your reader does not. Also, pick something you can deftly describe with sensory details and vivid comparisons. In this assignment you have the luxury of choosing your subject for description. This academic freedom must not be taken lightly. Choose appropriately, professionally, and wisely.
- **Topic (5 Points) Due Wednesday, November 20.**
- **Rough Draft (10 Points): Due Friday, November 22 - Typed and Double-Spaced/Printed Out and brought to class:.**
- **Final Draft: Submitted to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) PRIOR to arriving to class on Tuesday, November 26.**
- **Purpose:** It's a great creative exercise to sit down and simply describe what you observe. However, when writing a descriptive essay, you should have a particular *reason* for your description: **explain** something to an audience using a **descriptive focus**.
- **Form:** The form of this assignment will be a five-paragraph essay **no longer than two pages double-spaced**. There are two ways to organize your essay:

**Organization Strategy I: Appealing-to-the-Senses Description: Let the reader see, smell, hear, taste, and feel what you write**

"The thick, burnt scent of roasted coffee tickled the tip of my nose just seconds before the old, faithful alarm blared a distorted top-forty through its tiny top speaker. Wiping away the grit of last night's sleep, the starch white sunlight blinded me momentarily as I slung my arm like an elephant trunk along the top of the alarm, searching for the snooze button. While stretching hands and feet to the four posts of my bed, my eyes opened after several watery blinks. I crawled out of the comforter, edging awkwardly like a butterfly from a cocoon, swinging my legs over the side of the bed. The dusty pebbles on the chilled, wood floor sent ripples spiraling from my ankles to the nape of my neck when my feet hit the floor. Grabbing the apricot, terry-cloth robe, recently bathed in fabric softener and October wind, I knotted it tightly at my waist like a prestigious coat of armor and headed downstairs to battle the morning" (Anonymous).

**Organization Strategy II: Spatial-Order Description: Show the reader where things are located from your perspective.**

"Billy Ray's Pawn Shop and Lawn Mower Repair looked like a burial ground for country auction rejects. The blazing, red, diesel fuel tanks beamed in front of the station, looking like cheap lipstick against the pallid, wrinkled texture of the parking lot sand. The yard, not much larger than the end zone at General G. Patton High School on the north end of town, was framed with a rusted metallic hedge of lawn mowers, banana seat bicycles, and corroded oil drums. It wasn't a calico frame of rusted parts, but rather an orchestra of unwanted machinery that Billy Ray had arranged into sections. The yellow-tanked mowers rested silently at the right of the diesel fuel. Once red, now faded orange, mowers stood at attention to the left. The oil barrels, jaded and pierced with holes, bellowed like chimes when the wind was right. The bikes rested sporadically throughout the lot. In the middle of it all was the office, a faded, steel roof supported by cheap two-by-fours and zebra paneling. Billy Ray was at home, usually, five blocks east of town on Kennel Road" (Anonymous).

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Essay reflects content: Yes    No

CATEGORY	9- 10	7-8	5-6	3-4
<b>Introduction</b>	Introductory paragraph clearly states subject of essay and captures reader's attention.	Introductory paragraph states subject of essay but is not particularly inviting to the reader.	Introductory paragraph attempts to state subject of essay but does not capture reader's attention.	No attempt is made to state the subject of the essay in an introductory paragraph.
<b>Sensory Details</b>	Essay includes details that appeal to at least three of the five senses (taste, touch, sound, sight, smell).	Includes details that appeal to fewer than three of the five senses.	Includes details that appeal to only one of the five senses.	Includes no details that appeal to one of the five senses.
<b>Word Choice</b>	Writer uses vivid words and phrases that linger or draw pictures in the reader's mind, and the choice and placement of the words seems accurate, natural and not forced.	Writer uses vivid words and phrases that linger or draw pictures in the reader's mind, but occasionally the words are used inaccurately or seem overdone.	Writer uses words that communicate clearly, but the writing lacks variety, punch or flair.	Writer uses a limited vocabulary that does not communicate strongly or capture the reader's interest. Jargon or cliches may be present and detract from the meaning.
<b>Simile/Metaphor</b> <b>Personification</b>	Writer effectively uses simile, metaphor, and personification to describe the subject.	Writer uses one example of simile, metaphor, or personification to describe the subject.	Writer may try to use simile, metaphor, and personification but does so incorrectly.	Writer does not include simile, metaphor, or personification in essay.
<b>Sentence Structure (Sentence Fluency)</b>	All sentences are well-constructed with varied structure.	Most sentences are well-constructed with varied structure.	Most sentences are well-constructed but have a similar structure.	Sentences lack structure and appear incomplete or rambling.
<b>Grammar, Spelling, Capitalization, &amp; Punctuation</b>	There are no errors in grammar, spelling, capitalization, or punctuation. Rubric is attached to essay. Essay is completed on time.	There are some errors; however, these errors do not distract the reader. Rubric is attached to essay. Essay is completed on time.	There are errors that distract the reader. Rubric is attached to essay. Essay is completed on time.	There are serious errors that interfere with the reader's understanding of the essay. Rubric is not attached to essay. Essay is completed on time.

TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_ / 60 Points