



Couse: English composition II

Course code: ENGL 102

Topic: Descriptive Paragraph

Skill: Composition Skill

A descriptive paragraph includes details that appeal to the five senses: sight, taste, touch, smell, and hearing. In a descriptive paragraph, the writer must convey information that appeals to all the senses, in order to give the best possible description to the reader. Descriptive paragraphs are commonly used in fiction and non-fiction writing, to help immerse readers into the world of the author.

Dominant Impression

Much like a thesis statement, the dominant impression unifies and organizes the essay. It informs the reader of the author's angle and it creates a lens through which the reader sees the rest of the essay. For example, if the essay is a description of your kid sister, you might make your dominant impression about how resilient and strong she is and the reader will keep this in mind as you describe everything else about your sister.

Topic Sentence:

The topic sentence should name the *place* and the *feeling or impression*.

Directions: For each example, underline the place and circle the feeling or impression.

1. The old house has a spooky atmosphere.
2. Although Boston is in the United States, it *feels like it is in* Europe.

Descriptive details:

Describe smells and tastes if you can and also what you can see. Describe how the moment or item feels. Describe how your subject sounds and make observations.

Spatial arrangement:

Spatial organization is when information in a passage is organized in order of space or location. If you were to describe the room in which you were sitting right now, you would be using spatial organization. Spatial organization may also be called descriptive writing and it is most frequently used when the narrator describes how something looks. Spatial organization is generally pretty easy to identify, but be aware that spatial organization is used in both fiction and nonfiction texts. Most fictional passages are organized chronologically, but in paragraphs where the narrator is describing a setting or the appearance of a character, the information may be organized spatially.

Example:

The Blond Guitar

by Jeremy Burden

My most valuable possession is an old, slightly warped blond guitar--the first instrument I taught myself how to play. It's nothing fancy, just a Madeira folk guitar, all scuffed and scratched and finger-printed. At the top is a bramble of copper-wound strings, each one hooked through the eye of a silver tuning key. The strings are stretched down a long, slim neck, its frets tarnished, the wood worn by years of fingers pressing chords and picking notes. The body of the Madeira is shaped like an enormous yellow pear, one that was slightly damaged in shipping. The blond wood has been chipped and gouged to gray, particularly where the pick guard fell off years ago. No, it's not a beautiful instrument, but it still lets me make music, and for that I will always treasure it.



References:

<http://www.ereadingworksheets.com/text-structure/patterns-of-organization/spatial/>

<http://classroom.synonym.com/dominant-impression-descriptive-writing-2617.html>

Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UAnKn9pAmuQ>