

Description of Place Essay

Description is the art of translating perceptions into words. All description, therefore, involves two elements: the object—that which is seen or heard—and the observer—he or she who sees or hears it. According to which of the two predominates, description is of two basic types: objective and impressionistic.

***Objective description** attempts to report accurately the appearance of the object as a thing in itself, independent of the observer's perception of it or feeling about it. The writer regards himself as a kind of camera.

***Impressionistic description** focuses on the mood or feeling the object evokes in the observer. It attempts to make us feel more than to make us see.

These are broad categories of description, and neither ever purely exists.

Topic options

- Describe a landscape you know well.
- Choose one of the following to start your description: "The predominate feature of _____ is noise." "What I remember most about _____ is the tranquility. "For the whole week it _____ (rained, was foggy, snowed)."
- Describe the crowd at a sporting event or some sort of performance. Be clear what impression you want your reader to obtain, but do not tell him directly.

Requirements

- **Nominative absolute**—a word or phrase grammatically unrelated to any one part of a sentence.
She fled down the stairs, *her hair streaming behind her.*
"The search having failed, the men returned to camp."
- **Participial phrase** intruding between the subject and verb
- **Metaphor**
- Difference of at least 15 words between longest and shortest sentence