

The Descriptive Essay

Lead-context

- * Identify thing to be described.
- * Identify relationship of thing to writer
- * Identify writer's attraction for/interest in thing

Beginning

Transition

The thesis statement states (or implies) the significance, importance, relevance, or value of the dominant impression which the writer has of this thing.

Dominant Impression

essential nature

At its heart, this thing is _____

principle characteristic

The most noticeable characteristic of this thing is _____

enhanced awareness

For the first time I realized that this thing was _____

mood/tone

Whenever I think about this thing, I feel _____

Description

Details that illuminate the dominant impression (SIRV)

Select appropriate details

What details will *best* help the reader see why this thing is important to you?

Focus on details rather than on explanation.

Reveal the dominant impression by *showing* details rather than *explaining* details

Select an appropriate order

Order by time, space, theme, or some other logical pattern that fits the thing being described.

Middle

Transition

Restatement of dominant impression

Summary/Explanation

The conclusion may recap the key details emphasizing the dominant impression.

The conclusion may explain the significance, importance, or value of this thing to the writer.

End