

# 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