Mrs. Blocker

Photo/Descriptive Essay

Common Core State Standards

11-12.3.D Use precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory language to

convey a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters.

11-12.2.C Use appropriate and varied transitions and syntax to link the major

sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts.

11-12.2.D Use precise language, domain-specific vocabulary, and techniques such as

metaphor, simile, and analogy to manage the complexity of the topic.

Directions:

1. Choose a photograph that conjures a **strong emotion** in you
2. Use descriptive language to convey your **dominant emotion** regarding the subject of the photo (person, place, thing)

Elements of quality description:

* Vivid imagery (appeals to the **five senses**)
* Uses fresh, insightful **figures of speech**
* Strong, precise language (**verbs, adjectives, adverbs**)
* Varies **sentence beginnings** and length
* Organizes writing to suit the subject

**Planning:**

1. Prewrite #1: Look at your photo and complete the prewriting steps in this packet.

1. Choose a dominant impression for your descriptive essay and start drafting. Describe details, images (sensory details) and create a story (narrative) for your photo. generated. Use strong verbs, adjectives, etc.
2. Stay in the **present tense;** in other words, write as if you were in the picture.
3. Avoid abstract language (“I” and other pronouns; “happy” and other emotions).
4. Write until you have at least one page in your writer’s notebook.

Prewrite#1

A) Scene:

Who?

Where?

When?

What was going on?

Why did you choose it?

Positive or negative experience? Why?

B) How do you feel when you look at it now?

C) Dominant Feeling/Impression:

* 1. **List** the range of feelings you have when looking at the photo.
  2. **Choose** one (feeling/central idea) you would like to focus.
  3. ***Brainstorm*** ideas/associations you have with the feeling/central idea

**Example:** Innocence

Things I associate with innocence: babies, merry-go-round, recess bell, cooing, high voices, white wedding gown, overalls, sippy- cups, swish+spit

Things I associate with\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are:

D) Sense Chart

Sense Tips Images

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Sight | Colors, size |  |
| Sound | Volume; treble, bass, grating |  |
| Smell | Things within and around subject |  |
| Taste | Simile (like…)  Figurative language |  |
| Touch | Temperature; texture; oily, smooth, rough, jagged |  |