

Descriptive Writing Paragraph Assignment - Due: Friday 10/3

Assignment - Write a powerful descriptive paragraph about your favorite food/favorite restaurant (at least 120 words). See the rubric for point details.

You must:

- Include an explicit thesis and a title
- Appeal to at least three of the five senses (sight, smell, taste, touch, and hearing)
- Use at least two of the four comparison strategies (see "comparisons" below)

Organization & Structure

- A. Opening Sentence - Should be interesting and different. Usually the opening sentence contains the "thesis" or main idea/topic sentence. (See "opening sentences" below)
- B. Body Sentences - Should contain "concrete, specific details that appeal to **at least three of the five senses**." It provides the "evidence" that supports your topic sentence. (See "sensory details" below)
- C. Closing Sentence - Should restate in some way your thesis

Opening Sentences

- Make your opening sentence powerful and interesting.
Please do not start with "My favorite food is..."
- ***Sell it*** - You've all read and seen advertisements all your lives. When you write, instead of using the old "My favorite food is enchiladas at Nacho Grande" try "The cheese enchiladas at Nacho Grande will have you cleaning your plate and begging for more" or "There's no need for a menu at Nacho Grande, just order the cheese enchilada plate and get ready for a taste explosion"
- ***Start with a quote*** - If you don't want to start with a direct statement, get a quotation from someone. "I just couldn't stop. I shoveled them in my mouth."

OR

- ***Begin with an interesting fact*** - Nacho Grande is the only Mexican restaurant in Houston to use three types of organic cheese in their enchiladas.

OR

- ***Begin with a question*** - How do you define the ultimate cheese experience? Easy: the three-cheese enchilada platter at Nacho Grande

Provide Examples

- Miss Dore's Starbucks - "There's one compelling reason I get out of bed on time in the morning and that's the Iced Venti Soy Latte at Starbucks."

Sensory Details - Word Bank

Can't think of any powerful adjectives, verbs, etc.? Try these:

Verbs		Adjectives	
pour/poured	burn/burned	Scrambled	fragrant
seize/seized	Cover/covered	Messy	redolent
shovel/shoveled	hammer/hammered	Oozing	perfumed
explode/exploded	meld/melded	Goosey	steaming
course/coursed	Scald/scalded	Melted	slimy
roll/rolled	Cruise/cruised	Stacked	soft
savor/savored	Blend/blended	Symmetrical	crunchy
explore/explored	Coat/coated	Drizzled	chewy
slurp/slurped	Scoop/Scooped	Spicy	crisp

Comparisons - similes / metaphors / analogies / allusions

Shrek: "An ogre is *like* an onion."

Donkey: "What they smell bad?"

Shrek: "No."

Donkey: "They make you cry?"

Shrek: "No. Layers. Ogres have layers. Like onions."

Similes: comparison of two unlike things using "like" or "as"

"the cheese flowed *like* lava"

"ate *like* it was my last day on earth"

"so perfectly arranged, it's *as beautiful as* a piece of art"

Metaphors: a non-literal comparison that **does not** use "like" or "as"

"The enchiladas swim in red sauce and peppers." (they don't actually swim...)

"The pancakes floated onto the fork." (they don't actually float...)

"A Starbucks iced venti soy latte is my alarm clock." (it isn't actually an alarm clock)

Analogies: a comparison of two things, typically on the basis of their structure

"The stack of thick pancakes towered with the height of a skyscraper" (tall stack, tall building)

"My cheesy enchiladas were swaddled in fresh tortillas with the snugness of a newborn baby" (tightly wrapped enchiladas, tightly wrapped baby)

Allusions: a brief reference to a person, place, thing, or idea of historical, cultural, literary or political significance

"My precarious stack of pancakes was the legendary Leaning Tower of Pisa."

"The promise of earning a Starbucks Iced Venti Soy Latte started a civil war between my sister and me."