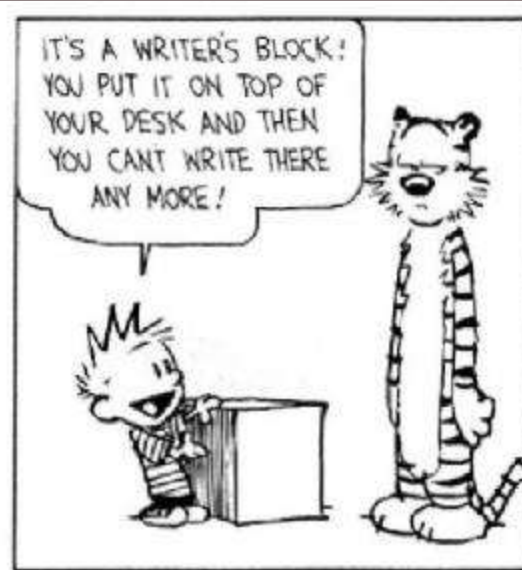


# DESCRIPTIVE WRITING



# Tips for writing vivid description

- Consider your purpose and audience
- Create a dominant impression
- Arrange the details from a consistent vantage point
- Use figurative language
- Generate ideas asking what something looks, sounds, feels, smells and tastes like

# Templates for describing

- The main physical characteristics of X are \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_.
- From the perspective of \_\_\_\_, however X could be described as \_\_\_\_
- In some ways, namely \_\_\_\_, X resembles \_\_\_\_; but in other ways X is more like \_\_\_\_.
- X is not at all like \_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_.
- Mainly because of \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_, X gives the impression of being \_\_\_\_.
- From this description of X, you can see that \_\_\_\_.

# CONCRETE

- Six inches of snow blanket the rolling Virginia hillside as mourners gather at a fresh burial site in Arlington National Cemetery outside Washington D.C. Rows of simple markers identify the more than 250,000 graves that make up the military portion of the cemetery. Visited annually by more the four million people, the cemetery conducts nearly 100 funerals each week.

# SUBJECTIVE

- The stones are marble, modernly glossy and simple, though I suppose that time will eventually reveal then as another fashion, dates and quaint. Now, the sod is still raw, the sutures of turf are unhealed, the earth still humped, the wreaths scarcely withered...I remember my grandfather's funeral, the hurried cross of the sand the minister drew on the coffin lid, the whine of the lowering straps, the lengthening, cleanly cut side of clay...

by John Updike *Cemeteries*

# Free write

- Write an extended description of:
  - ✓ A person – a profile with a dominant impression
  - ✓ An event that you have witnessed
  - ✓ Your favorite place
  - ✓ A favorite object

# Narrative Writing



# Tell a story

- Consider audience and purpose
- Consider plot (events)
- Consider narrator (who is telling the story)
- Consider point of view (perspective)
- Consider setting (time and place)
- Consider chronology (cause and effect, flashback)
- Consider dialogue

# Templates for narrating

- This is a story about \_\_\_\_.
- My story takes place in \_\_\_\_ when \_\_\_\_.
- As the narrative opens, X is in the act of \_\_\_\_.
- What happened next was \_\_\_\_, followed by, and \_\_\_\_.
- At this point, \_\_\_\_ happened.
- The climax of these events was \_\_\_\_.
- When X understood what had happened, he/she said, “\_\_\_\_.”
- My point in telling this story is to show \_\_\_\_.



# Free write

- People often recall their whereabouts at the time of a significant event in history or in their life. Choose one and recount where you were and what others said and did, how you felt.
- Write about a time when you witnessed an injustice.
- Write about a time when you had an internal struggle to make an important decision. Lead up to and focus sharply on the moment of clarity of when your mind was made up.
- Write a coming of age narrative about someone (yourself, a friend, a sibling) for whom you have witnessed a change, or growth as a result of specific events.
- Write about a time when you were exposed to a different culture – through food, art, travel. What did you discover from the experience.

# MORE EXAMPLES



== PLEASE ==

# Writing an exemplification essay

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- Consider your purpose and your audience (entertain, inform, persuade)
- Come up with a subject
- Generate ideas
- State your point (clear thesis)
- Use sufficient and representative examples
- Organize examples and use transitions

# Templates for Exemplifying

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- About X, it can generally be said that \_\_\_\_; a good example would be \_\_\_\_
- The main characteristics of X are \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_, as exemplified by \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_.
- For the best examples of X, we can turn to \_\_\_\_.
- Additional examples of X include \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_.
- From these examples of X, we can conclude that \_\_\_\_.

# Free write

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- Look at the photograph of Pfc. Dwyer on p.155. Write a paragraph or two explaining what you think it exemplifies.
- Write an essay about someone who exemplified the virtues of “strength and selflessness.”

# Comparison and Contrast Essay Writing

How are two things alike or  
different?

# Templates for Comparing

- X and Y can be compared on the grounds that both are \_\_\_\_\_.
- Like X, Y is also \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.
- Although X and Y are both, the differences between them far outweigh the similarities. For example, X is \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ while Y is \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.
- Unlike X, Y is \_\_\_\_\_.
- Despite their obvious differences, X and Y are basically alike in that \_\_\_\_\_.
- At first glance, X and Y seem \_\_\_\_\_; however, a closer look reveals \_\_\_\_\_.
- In comparing X and Y we can clearly see that \_\_\_\_\_.

# Free write – Comparison/Contrast

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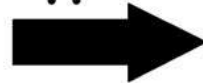
- Write an essay comparing and contrasting a pair of important historical or public figures with whom you are familiar (Jefferson and Hamilton, Hillary Clinton and Michelle Obama, Thoreau and Douglas)
- Write an essay comparing and contrasting your family with that of a close friend, spouse or partners. Choose one specific point of comparison (what they eat, how they interact within their family, how they celebrate special occasions etc.
- Write an essay comparing and contrasting your childhood with that of someone whose childhood you know (or imagine) to be very different from your own.



# Cause and Effect Essay Writing

## Cause & Effect

When one event causes another to happen. The **cause** is WHY it happens, the **effect** is WHAT happens.



# Templates for C & E writing

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- One effect of X is \_\_\_\_, which in turn causes \_\_\_\_.
- Some additional effects of X are \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_.
- Although the causes of X are not known, we can speculate that a key factor is \_\_\_\_.
- X cannot be attributed to mere chance of coincidence because \_\_\_\_.
- Once we know what causes X, we are in a position to say that \_\_\_\_.

# Free write – Cause and Effect

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- Analyze one or more of the effects that the right of freedom of speech has or might have on the daily life of someone living in the U.S.
- What effects has the increased power and presence of the Internet had on the ways we communicate? Write an essay analyzing one or more of these effects.