

# Description

## LESSON GOAL

Communicate one's perspective while accurately describing an experience, person, or research topic.

## ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What are the elements of effective description?

## INTEGRATING TECHNOLOGY

### ANNOUNCEMENT

- Check Announcements for any information about assignments and due dates.

### MY PORTFOLIO

- Consider submitting your work in this lesson to My Workspace for inclusion in My Portfolio.

### MY WORKSPACE

- Complete your assignments in My Workspace.

### LESSONS

- Review the lesson
- Complete assignments.
- Submit assignments

### ASSIGNMENTS

- Use Assignments to submit your artifacts and reflections.

### GRADEBOOK

- Check Gradebook for your lesson evaluation.

### SCHEDULE

- Check schedule for assignments and due dates.

### COMMUNICATE

- with your teacher or other students if desired
  - Blogger
  - Chat Room
  - Drop box
  - Mailtool

2 class periods

## LESSON OVERVIEW

How can it be that people who have the same experience have different perspectives on it? Who is right? Who is wrong? In this lesson you'll explore how even researchers can have different perspectives about the same experiences. Understanding perspective can help get closer to truth and understanding in research and in description.

## STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

1. Listen to *The War of the Ghosts*.
2. Rewrite the story you have heard.
3. Share your story with your group and create a group story.
4. Define and discuss characteristics of descriptive writing.
5. Read Mandela and Mao handouts and collaborate on a group paragraph using different perspectives.
6. Brainstorm research topics and complete a research brief.
7. Write a reflection about the lesson.

## Here are the ways you can succeed in this lesson.

1. Thoroughly engage in *The War of the Ghosts* story.
2. Write a thoughtful retelling that addresses key story elements.
3. Take initiative to work collaboratively to address all perspectives in a group story retelling.
4. Make thoughtful and productive contributions to the discussion of descriptive writing.
5. Write a careful descriptive paragraph that thoughtfully presents the historical perspective and take initiative to collaborate to ensure that all perspectives are included in the group description.
6. Thoughtfully select a research topic and write an abstract that demonstrates understanding of perspective and descriptive writing.
7. Write a thoughtful reflection that addresses all questions and demonstrates understanding of perspective and descriptive writing.

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### ASSIGNMENT 1

In class you listened to *The War of the Ghosts* story. You may not understand the story completely, but rewrite the story based on what you did understand. Then share your retelling with your group. Discuss how it is alike and different from others. Put your thoughts together and write a group retelling of the story. Use the *Sakai* Assignments Tool to submit your retelling and a copy of your group's retelling for evaluation.



### ASSIGNMENT 2

In class you wrote an individual and group retelling of *The War of the Ghosts*. Then you participated in a discussion of interpretation and defined descriptive writing. Now you will read the paragraphs about Mao or Mandela that you were given, but do not share them with your group.

Write a descriptive paragraph about the incident from the perspective described in the paragraph. Use the elements of descriptive writing.

Share your descriptive paragraph with your group. Listen to the other perspectives of the incident.

Collaborate with your group to write a comprehensive description of the incident, incorporating each perspective.

Use the *Sakai* Assignments Tool to submit your individual and your group paragraphs for evaluation.



### ASSIGNMENT 3

In class you have done the following.

- Listened to *The War of the Ghosts*, written your own version, and collaborated on a group retelling of *The War of the Ghosts*.
- Defined and discussed characteristics of descriptive writing.
- Read Mandela and Mao handouts and collaborated on a descriptive group paragraph incorporating each perspective.
- Brainstormed research topics.

Choose a research topic that interests you and relates to your internship site. Choose a topic that you want to know more about. You can change it later, but choose something for now.

Write a one-page description of this research topic from your perspective. This will be the start of a complete research project.

Use the *Sakai* Assignments Tool to submit your individual copy and a copy of your group paragraphs for evaluation.

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## ASSIGNMENT 4

In class you have done the following.

- Listened to and written your version, and collaborated on a group retelling of *The War of the Ghosts*.
- Defined and discussed characteristics of descriptive writing.
- Read Mandela and Mao handouts and collaborated on a descriptive group paragraph from different perspectives.
- Brainstormed research topics, selected a topic, and written a one-page description of it.

Think of these experiences as you write a reflection that addresses the following questions. Use the *Sakai* Assignments Tool to submit your reflection for evaluation.

Paragraph 1

- Describe your impressions of the *War of the Ghosts* story.
- What did you find confusing? Interesting?
- When you re-wrote your story, where did you have confusion?
- Why do you think that that was confusing for you to remember?

Paragraph 2





- Through the lesson and the other activities, what did you learn about your perspective when it came to describing events, persons, or issues?
- How do you see that perspective appear in your writing, relationship with others, or at your internships site?

Paragraph 3

- Explain why you chose the research topic you did. What appeals to you about it?
- Describe what research you think you will need to do to complete this assignment.

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Multiply the points by the weighted score and record in the total column for each rubric. Then tally the total points for the final score.

Weighted Score	Category	Exceeding 9-10 Points	Meeting 6-8 Points	Approaching 3-5 Points	Emerging 0-2 Points	Total
2	 <b>ASSIGNMENT 1</b> <b>Group Story</b> Work with a group to compose a group story.	Took initiative to work collaboratively to address all perspectives in a group story.	Participated in developing a group story.	Observed the rewrite of the group story.	Was minimally involved in rewriting the group story.	
2	 <b>ASSIGNMENT 2</b> <b>Historical Description</b> Collaborate on a description of a historical event told from different perspectives.	Wrote a careful descriptive paragraph that thoughtfully presented the historical perspective and took initiative to collaborate to ensure that all perspectives were included in the group description.	Completed a historical description and participated in the group collaboration.	Made an effort to complete a historical description and participate in the group collaboration.	Made minimal effort to complete a historical description or participate in the group collaboration.	
2	 <b>ASSIGNMENT 3</b> <b>Research Topic</b> Write a description of a chosen research topic.	Thoughtfully selected a research topic and wrote an abstract that demonstrated understanding of perspective and descriptive writing.	Selected a research topic and completed a descriptive abstract.	Selected a topic and made an attempt to write a description of it.	Made little effort to select a topic or write a description of it.	
2	 <b>ASSIGNMENT 4</b> <b>Reflection</b> Complete a written reflection about perspective in descriptive writing.	Wrote a thoughtful reflection that addressed all questions and demonstrated understanding of perspective and descriptive writing.	Completed a reflection that demonstrated some understanding of perspective and descriptive writing.	Made an effort to complete a reflection that demonstrated some understanding of perspective and descriptive writing.	Made minimal effort to complete the reflection.	