

Description

LESSON GOAL

Identify what makes description effective and practice creating effective description.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What are elements of effective description?

INTEGRATING TECHNOLOGY

ANNOUNCEMENT

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

MY PORTFOLIO

- Submit work to My Portfolio.

MY WORKSPACE

- Prepare your assignments in My Workspace.

LESSONS

- Review the lesson.
- Complete assignment.
- Submit assignment.

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

“The Leaky Faucet” by Ted Kooser, 13th American Poet Laureate

All through the night, the leaky faucet

Searches the stillness of the house

With its radar blip: who is awake?

Who lies out there as full of worry

As a pan in the sink? *Cheer up,*

Cheer up, the little faucet calls,

Someone will help you through your life.

You could draw a picture of the scene in this simple little poem. You know what it looks like, what the sounds are, and how things feel. What makes description vivid and interesting? How can you use words and images to effectively describe an object or place? In this lesson you'll explore descriptive writing.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

1. Write a descriptive paragraph.
2. Verbally share the writing in small groups.
3. Participate in class discussion about elements of effective description.
4. Choose 5 descriptive words or phrases about a place.
5. Create a poster incorporating the words and phrases with other visuals.
6. Present the poster to the class.
7. Create a piece of descriptive writing to go with the poster.

There are three assignments in the lesson that involve writing a descriptive paragraph about food, creating a descriptive poster, and creating a piece of writing to go with your poster.

Here are the ways you can succeed in this lesson

1. Write at least one paragraph of extensive description using more than three details about the food you like.
2. Participate at least once in the discussion and take detailed notes about descriptive words.
3. In your poster, incorporate words and images to vividly illustrate your site.
4. Write creatively and meaningfully to describe your poster.



ASSIGNMENT 1

Write a paragraph that describes your favorite food. Follow these steps.

1. Write at least one paragraph that describes your favorite food, without naming the food or any specific parts of it.
2. Look at, smell, and taste the food, if possible, before writing so

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that your description will be fresh. If the food makes a sound when cooking or when you are chewing it, add that to your description.

3. Your goal is to get another person to guess what food you are describing based on your descriptions of tastes, textures, flavors, colors and even how it is prepared and eaten. Avoid naming any part of the food...make others guess!
4. After the class discussion, use the *Sakai* Assignments Tool to submit your paragraph for evaluation.



ASSIGNMENT 2

Create a descriptive poster of your school, your internship site, or a community service business or organization. Follow these steps.

1. Start by writing five words, one of each of the senses, about the place you are describing. These words and/or phrases should capture the essence of how your place works and what it accomplishes. (Some examples: busy, compassionate, quiet, artistic, promotes reading, takes special orders, outdoors, etc.)
2. Visit the place and change or add to your list of words.
3. Plan your poster by deciding on a visual to go with each word you used.
4. Create a poster that incorporates your five words and/or phrases that represent how your site works and what it accomplishes. You may use pictures, words, sketches, cut-outs, and any other tools to visually describe your site.
5. Present your poster to the class.
6. Use the *Sakai* Assignments Tool to submit a picture of your poster for evaluation.



ASSIGNMENT 3

Write a poem, short story, or descriptive paragraph to accompany your posters. In your writing, incorporate the words you selected to describe the site. Use the *Sakai* Assignments Tool to submit your work for evaluation.

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
3	ASSIGNMENT 1 Descriptive Paragraph Write a descriptive paragraph about a favorite food.	Wrote at least one paragraph of extensive description using more than three details.	Wrote one paragraph that used two or three good details to describe food.	Wrote a small paragraph or a few sentences that contained one or two details of description.	Wrote one or two sentences.	
3	ASSIGNMENT 2 Poster Create a descriptive poster.	Poster incorporated words and images to vividly illustrate their site.	Poster used words and visuals to accurately portray their site.	Poster lacked some words or images and is vague.	Poster used few images or words to attempt site description.	
3	ASSIGNMENT 3 Reflection Create a piece of descriptive writing to go with the descriptive poster.	Writing creatively and meaningfully described the poster.	Writing had some creative thought in describing the poster.	Writing explained what is in the poster.	Writing did not effectively describe the poster.	