

Topics for Process Description

The following suggested topics connect to p. 168 of *Acting on Words*, which completes the discussion of process description.

Exposition

1. Think of a process in nature that is native to an area you know well. Describe this process for someone from another country where this process does not occur, or at least not in this specific way.
2. Think of a special event that you have been involved in (a festival, election campaign, annual celebration, ceremony of some sort, etc.). Imagine a reader who is not familiar with this event and describe it.
3. Describe the process underlying the functioning of some technology that we use on a daily basis. Picturing a reader who is not scientifically or technically inclined, describe this process as clearly, accurately, and simply as you can.
4. Explain the process of watching a film for purposes of writing a critical analysis.
5. Describe the historical process that gave your family, community, or region its present-day character.

Critical

Explaining how an excerpt from an essay relates to the essay as a whole represents a form of process description. Read “Explaining How an Excerpt Relates to a Work as a Whole,” Chapter 20, pp. 241 - 248. Then choose an essay from *Acting on Words* or some other source and ask your instructor or a classmate to select a two-sentence excerpt from that essay. In one or two paragraphs, describe how the excerpt relates to (works along with) the other elements of the essay. This activity requires you to recognize that an essay follows a certain *process* of appeals for meaning. How does the excerpt serve within that process?