

Composition 2- Lecture 7 (Pr. El Hadari)

Writing a descriptive essay:

- A descriptive essay is an essay in which we **make appeal** to our senses. We describe what we see, hear, smell, taste, touch and feel.
- A descriptive essay includes sensory information related to a person, an object, a concept, a place, or an event or situation.
- In descriptive essays, we can use **figurative language** (metaphors, similes, personification, hyperbole...).

Some suggested topics to practice descriptive essays:

- ✓ Describe your best friend.
- ✓ Describe your favorite travel destination.
- ✓ Describe your dream house.
- ✓ Describe a monument.
- ✓ Describe one of your family members.
- ✓ Describe your role model.
- ✓ Describe your favorite object.
- ✓ Describe your favorite animal.

Example:

A Special Grey-haired Neighbor

Mrs. Caroline is a special kind of women. This is how I personally see her. She has been my neighbor at Kent, Ohio State,

for about eight years. Her vivacious, witty character has always been a real magnet to all people around her. Despite her age and weak body, she is full of life and energy. Whenever I meet her, I feel the urge to speak to her and I run a gamut of emotions from joy to admiration, love and sympathy. She is shrewd and calm. Her sagacious, bright nature is a source of inspiration, especially for youths.

The wrinkles on her face fail to hide her physical beauty. Her smile and gait, **albeit** uneasy, prevent this beauty from withering. There is no room for dour, boorish expressions on her face. Feeling of despair vanishes at the sight of her majestic posture on her wooden chair in the front of her small house. Hope befriends all those who get the chance to have a chat with her. Her height reflects the height of her pride and honor. Her sweet words touch the hearts of her acquaintances as well as her neighbors. She lives alone, but she never distances herself from others. Her fragile body does not thwart her from doing some regular exercising, namely in the morning. She has the ability to give blow-by-blow accounts of past events. She never forgets just like an elephant.

Mrs. Caroline is indefatigable in her efforts to endear herself to the people around her. She never hesitates to declare her strong belief in the power of love in human relationships. Her mouth spits wisdom, affection, tenderness and maturity. People surrounding her requite her love and treat her as a grand lady who symbolizes truth and honesty. Her mastery of the English language reveals her as a woman with great communicative skills and persuasive

power. Her voice is very poetic and musical. The way she puts words resembles the process of symphony-making. These words, like musical instruments, play together in harmony. There is an aura of respect around her. Her long experience in life makes of her a rich store for very instructive and engaging stories.

One of the weaknesses she has is that she cannot control herself when she sees sugary food. She consumes too much sugar although she knows that it is dangerous for her health. She uses her sense of humor to justify her sugar addiction. She keeps repeating that sugar is a good omen for a sweet life and a better future. "Life is as sweet as the sugar I love," she once said. Though the argument she funnily gives is not convincing at all, I hold her in high esteem and regard her as a sweet, kind lady. Mother flaw in her character, according to some of her neighbors, is that she likes gossiping. She frequently tells stories involving the personal lives of other people.

Writing an argumentative essay:

- An argumentative essay is an essay in which the writer presents a claim and tries to prove it by giving appropriate and convincing arguments. In other words, the writer makes a point and argues for or against it.
- In argumentative essays, the writer takes a clear **stance** on a certain topic and establishes an evidence-based case for it.

Example: Some people believe that Facebook is a hegemony strategy. Write a five-paragraph essay arguing for this statement.

Introduction:

It goes without saying that Facebook has invited every part of our life. Many people, namely teenagers and youths, cannot spend the day without visiting their Facebook pages or searching for the news of their friends on Facebook. For many of them, Facebook is a matter of life. Personally speaking, I see it as a hegemony strategy as its aims at controlling people's minds and shaping the way they think.

Paragraph 1:

Facebook distracts the attention of people from their real problems and make them focus on trivial matters.

Paragraph 2:

Facebook users develop into digital creatures who live in a virtual world of their making, totally separated from the real one.

Paragraph 3:

Facebook is a way to manipulate the masses and control their thoughts.

Conclusion:

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