DESCRIPTION ESSAY
WRITING APPROACHES

Verbal / Linguistic

Write a short but extremely detailed account of the last vacation or serious trip you have taken. How many sensory words can you use to describe each aspect of the trip?

Musical / Rhythmic

Listen to a long piece of classical music. As you listen, list the sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and textures that the music conjures up. Turn these impressions into an essay that seeks to describe a specific impression you get from the music.

Logical / Mathematical

List, in chronological order, all the sensory details you experience from the moment you arrive home for the day to the moment you go to sleep. Group these activities together under the topic of "things you do to end the day" or something similar, and use them to deliver a dominant feeling about what it is, for you, to end the day at home in the particular ways that you do.

Visual / Spatial

Draw a scene that includes all five senses, like a busy city street corner, a country fair, or some other location. Which senses are the most predominant in this scene? Explain what's happening in this scene, and why you are there, in order to give focus and cohesion to your description.

Bodily / Kinesthetic

Go ride your bicycle for a few miles, or take a run through a park, play soccer, or do some other activity to see what kind(s) of heightened awareness of certain sensory details you have when you are active (versus when you are inactive, like when you are sitting on the couch watching reruns of *Friends*). Now describe what senses you feel *differently* when you are active, and how exactly those feel in comparison to times when you are not doing that activity.

Intrapersonal

Close yourself in your room or someone else safe and quiet and think about the most peaceful place you would like to visit. What sensory details do you think you might find the most, and the least, satisfying about this place? Why did you "come" to this place to begin with? What sensory details might make you think of this place when you are not "there"?