



## DESCRIPTIVE WRITING- PART I

Example: Sitting here in Harold's Hefty Burgers at midnight, I am convinced that I am eating the ultimate form of food. The buns are feathery soft to the touch but heavy in the hand and soggy inside. As I take a full-mouth, no-nonsense bite, the melted cheese and juices cascade over my fingers and make little oil slicks on the vinyl table below. I stop chewing occasionally to flush down the rich, thick taste of animal fat with a swig from a chilled mug of fizzing root beer.



As a writer of description, you will need to focus your work to accomplish three specific tasks:

➤ ***Emphasize a single point (dominant impression).***

The dominant impression emerges from a pattern of details, often involving repetition of one idea with different particulars.

*The details from the above description all surround and emphasize the experience of eating the ultimate form of food.*

➤ ***Establish a perspective from which to describe your subject (point of view).***

Point of view shows the writer's relationship to the subject, thereby establishing the perspective from which the subject is described.

*The above description conveys the personal experience of the writer and the point of view is first person through his use of "I."*

➤ ***Position the details for coherence (order).***

In describing your immediate surroundings, the descriptive account should develop spatially as well as chronologically (meaning in space and time).

*In the above description, we are grounded in the experience because of the details about where the scene is taking place (i.e.: Sitting here in Harold's Hefty Burger at midnight, I am convinced that I am eating the ultimate form of food.)*

Brandon, Lee. *Paragraphs and Essays*. 8<sup>th</sup> Ed. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2001.