

## **Zoom-In Description**

English 9--Mr. Peppler

For this piece, we will be focusing on the *Ideas*, *Organization*, and *Word Choice* traits of good writing. To do this, you will be writing a description of a place, then zooming in to a person in that place, then further zooming in to an object connected (in some way) to that person.

During this writing, you will be...

- learning and reviewing pre-writing/brainstorming techniques, such as hitchhiking and mind-mapping.
- making conscious decisions about the organization of the details within each paragraph.
- learning and demonstrating the use of transition words and phrases.
- revising and editing for the most effective descriptive words.
- editing for accuracy based on the DOL rules we've learned so far.

### Step 1: Pre-writing

We will be doing some in-class activities to brainstorm ideas for the elements of this description. We will also further brainstorm for the specific details you will use in your writing. Along with generating ideas, we will organize these ideas in the most logical, readable manner.

### Step 2: Drafting

Once you each have a “plan of attack”, we'll spend a little time in the computer lab simply drafting a ‘first draft’ of the piece. Then, you'll have something to work with.

### Step 3: Revision—Ideas

You'll need to take a good look at your piece for the ideas you've selected.

- Do you have a good blend of senses in your description?
- Do you give enough details, but not too many?
- Is there a variety within each paragraph?

### Step 4: Revision—Organization

Now, you'll need to look carefully at the order of those details.

- Do you ‘walk’ your reader through your place in a logical order?
- Do you describe your person in a way that helps the reader ‘see’ them?
- Is the object described carefully, or are the details just thrown in?
- Did you use a solid topic sentence at the beginning of each paragraph to introduce or transition into the paragraph?
- Do you use clear transition words or phrases within the paragraphs to clearly guide the reader through each description?

### Step 5: Revision—Word Choice

It's now time to carefully consider the descriptive words you use to create the picture in your reader's mind.

- Look at your adjectives. Are you using the most accurate, descriptive words to draw just the right "picture"?
- Consider your verbs. Have you avoided passive voice and linking verbs and tried to use strong, active verbs wherever possible?

### Step 6: Editing

Here, you need to treat your writing like one, huge DOL sentence! Start editing.

NOTE: Along the way, you will have some smaller due dates. I need to see your progress during some of these steps. Also, you will have opportunity to get some peer feedback at certain times. If done correctly, this can be one of the most valuable parts of the writing process.

### Evaluation:

I will be looking at the following criteria when evaluating this writing. (A formal rubric will be provided later in the process.)

- ✓ *Process*: How well you followed the writing process, including each step along the way.
- ✓ *Ideas*: The ideas you generated, and the choices you made when including those ideas.
- ✓ *Organization*: The order and the transitions.
- ✓ *Word Choice*: The specific decisions you made in the words you chose to use.
- ✓ *Conventions*: The fancy name for the grammar, usage, and mechanics (DOL).