

Grade 8

- 2015** People gather at many places. This could be the cafeteria or gym at school, a park or sporting event, a room in your home, or any other place people get together.
- Choose one place you go where people gather. Think of the sights, sounds, feelings, smells, and/or tastes you experience there.
- Write an essay describing this place with sensory details so the reader can picture it and understand why you chose it.
- 2014** Think of something that is important to you.
- It might have been given to you as a gift, something you bought or found, something you earned, or something you learned.
- Write a descriptive essay using sensory details so the reader can picture it. Include reasons why this is important to you.
- 2013** Think about a place you enjoy.
- What sights, sounds, tastes, smells, textures, or feelings come to your mind?
- Write an essay describing this place. Use sensory details so the reader clearly pictures this place and understands why you enjoy it
- 2012** Think about a place that you know well that is interesting to you. It could be inside or outside, small and personal or large and busy.
- What sights, sounds, tastes, textures or feelings come to mind as you think about this place?
- Write an essay describing this place with sensory details so the reader would be able to picture it and know why you chose it.
- 2011:** Think about your dream house. It could be any place you wish.
- Write an essay describing your dream house by creating a vivid mental picture using sensory details for the readers so that they can see it, experience it, and be able to understand why you would want to live there.
- 2010:** Write an essay describing your most memorable time of the year. It could be related to a season, a holiday, or an event. Use specific sensory details so that anyone reading your essay will be able to create a mental picture and understand

why it is memorable to you.

2009: Think about a place you go to have fun.

What sights, sounds, smells, tastes, textures, or feelings come to mind as you think about this place?

Write an essay describing this place so the reader can experience it with as many senses as possible and understand why this place is special to you.

2008: Almost everyone has a favorite time or season of the year. It could be a season such as winter or summer, a sports season, or a holiday season. What is your favorite season?

Think about the descriptive characteristics such as sights, sounds, or smells that might occur during this season.

Write an essay describing your favorite time or season of the year using details so that anyone reading your essay would be able to picture it and understand why it is your favorite.

2007: Think about an object that is important to you.

It could be something that was given to you, something you found, something that reminds you of a special person or place, or any item that is important to you.

Write an essay describing this object using details so that anyone reading your essay would be able to picture it and understand what makes it important to you.

2006: Think of a real person who is important to you.

This person could be someone your age, a family member, a neighbor, or a person you look up to or admire.

Write an essay describing this person using details so that anyone reading your essay would be able to understand why this person is important to you.

2005: A school is made up of all kinds of classrooms. Each one is set up or arranged in its own unique way.

Think about a classroom that stands out in your mind because of its unique or unusual characteristics. It could be the one you are currently in or one that you remember from when you were in another grade or school. What are the details that come to mind when you think about this classroom? How does or did the room make you feel?

Write an essay describing this classroom so that the reader can understand why it is memorable to you.

2004: Think about your favorite place. What sights, sounds, tastes, textures, or feelings come to mind as you think about it?

Write an essay describing this place so that the reader can experience it with as many senses as possible and understand why it is your favorite place to be.

2001: Think about your school. What are some sights, sounds, smells, and textures that come to mind? Describe your school in such a way that someone who has never been there would be able to recognize it.