

Essential Questions

Be prepared to discuss the following questions:

1. Explain “show, don’t tell.”
2. What are “sensory details”?
3. Find examples of at least five more cliché leads.
4. How can a writer “re-create” a scene he or she did not see in person?
5. What is the best way to integrate description into a story without slowing down the narrative or confusing the reader?

End of Chapter Quiz

1. Explain why writers use description.
2. What is the similarity between fiction and descriptive non-fiction, like journalism?
3. List at least five items on any given reporter’s checklist.
4. Explain how you might go about describing a person’s face.
5. List at least five questions you might ask to determine someone’s personality traits.
6. What is a “defining moment”?
7. List five ways a student can improve his or her writing.
8. Select one of the following sentences and, using your imagination, write a lead that shows rather than tells.
 - A. The Student Council had a busy year.
 - B. She was a popular and excellent teacher.
 - C. The National Honor Society participated in many charitable events this year.
 - D. New computers made a big difference in the school this year.
 - E. Reality shows are popular with students.
 - F. A spirit of volunteerism swept through the school.
 - G. The baseball team had a habit of losing games in the last inning.
8. Rewrite each sentence to make it more precise, concise and descriptive.
 - A. Jerry looked at the umpire with anger.
 - B. Mrs. Riggins enjoys classical music and TV game shows.
 - C. Hearing that the tornado was coming nearer and nearer, Jeff assumed a squatting position in the basement of his house.
 - D. Ashley’s face expressed great pain upon seeing her boyfriend, Lawton, severely injured his arm during the football game.
 - E. A baby kitten searched for food outside the cafeteria.