

Minnesota Writing Project - Demonstration Lesson

Title: Focusing on Imagery through your Senses

Grade appropriate: 7 – 12, could be adapted for lower grades

Approximate length of time: potentially a part of a larger writing unit, this lesson can be completed in one class period.

Objectives to be covered: to expand student writing to more thoroughly describe a scene

- to encourage students to describe more than just the visual
- to show how differently a scene can be painted depending on what sense is focused upon.

Brief Summary: Students will work on imagery in their writing by focusing on one of their senses.

Summary/ Outline

1. Ask students about examples of songs, poems, stories that created a perfect picture in their head of a scene.
2. Discuss the 5 senses humans possess.
3. Have the students draw a slip of paper. Before class, I have written “Hearing”, “Seeing”, or “Touching” on sheets of paper. Each group must have one person from each sense represented.
4. The groups will go outside and spread out over an area determined by the teacher. Each student should have a notebook and pen. Each group of three will find their spot and then stay there.
5. The “Hearing” person will brainstorm what can be heard. The “Seeing” will focus on what can be seen and the “Touching” person will focus on what can be touched.
6. Students can stay outside for anywhere from 5 – 15.
7. After time is up, each student needs to take their brainstormed list and do a brief writing. They can write a story, a poem, or simply describe a scene. They need to use the images that they wrote down outside and focus on that sense.
8. After I’ve given the class anywhere from 10 –20 minutes to write, I have the students share their writings

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