Fall 2012

Composition 1101

Prof. Scanlan

**Essay 3: Describing an Art Object**

To describe is to create a verbal picture. A person, a place, a thing—even an idea or a state of mind—can be made vividly concrete through description. More specifically for our class, this essay asks us to describe an art object: a photograph, a mural, a building, or other approved urban design. Writing a description essay for our class requires three tasks that we talked about in class:

1. **Gathering**: Gather as many details about the art object as possible, relying not only on what the eyes see, but also on the other sense impressions as they are applicable: touch, taste, smell, hearing.

2. **Dominant Impression**: After gathering, then think about the quality that most effectively creates a dominant impression of the object. In other words, what is the single quality, mood, or atmosphere that you think an artist/designer wishes to emphasize?

3. **Organization**: How you move through the description is vital to writing a clear and effective description essay. For example, will you move through a photo from top to bottom, or from left to right? Will you describe a building from inside to outside? From penthouse to basement? Will you describe a painting or mural from the least significant aspect to the most significant? These are a few ways to organize your essay. But, above all, you must organize it according to some strategy.

**More Specifically**, in Essay 3, you are to write a **750-word essay** (approx. three pages) in which you describe one photo, mural, building, or design. You must take a picture of the object (or copy a reproduction of the object) and I must approve your choice. Second, you must post the picture to our OpenLab website—which means that you have to become a member of the site—see me if you have questions. Third, you must incorporate at least one quotation from chapter four: “Urban Art and Design.” And fourth, you must include a works cited page for this essay. At the very least, your essay must include at least two entries: our *Dwell* textbook for the quote and the object that you describe—remember, you can cite anything (see Purdue OWL).

**Grading Rubric:**

1. Title, introduction, thesis, method (25 points)

2. Concrete Descriptions, sentence structure, topic sentences (25 points)

3. Organization and Paragraph structure (25points)

4. Dominant Impression, Conclusion (25 points)

**Due Dates:**

Oct 16: Take picture of object plus readings in *Dwell*

Oct 18: 2-3 page draft of Essay 3: include Dominant Impression and Organization strategy (peer review)

Oct 23: MIDTERM EXAM

Oct 25: Final Draft of Essay 3