

**Paper 1 : Descriptive/Narrative Essay w/ an Argument**

Due on January 17, 2007 : [1000 words]

**Contents:**

Select one of the following subject areas, i.e., painting, sculpture, architecture, music or performing arts, and focus on a narrow topic such as a painting, a building, or a musical piece. Insert descriptive/narrative portions or sections, preferably at the beginning and at the end. (You may also insert them in the middle of the essay, if you wish.) Utilize your description/narration to enhance and improve your argument or position about that particular piece of art or performance.

**Method:**

Make your topic interesting to your readers. If it is boring for you, just imagine how it will bore your audience. Focus, focus, focus. State your argument in the second paragraph (or thereabouts) after you have introduced a descriptive/narrative portion, perhaps a personal experience (1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> person) or a story that you once read. Re-tell that personal experience or story. Plan your essay beforehand: don't go beyond 3 or 4 major evidences. You may conclude your essay by including an additional personal experience or story. Remember to CRAFT your piece. Take your time and revise it at least 2 or 3 times. And start one week or more before the deadline.

**Format:**

The composition will not exceed 1000 words (ca. 3.5 pages), double-spaced with Arial font size 12. If you need to cite (or paraphrase) an author, you can do so by using a parenthetical citation (in-text citation) and placing the bibliographic reference in the *Works Cited* section. This section needs to be in a separate page. There should be one inch on all four margins of the paper. Your name and other information should be written on first page, right hand margin. MLA style sheet must be used.

**Grammar and Style:**

The composition must be impeccable. In order to accomplish this, the writing must be free of any grammatical errors. The style must be pleasant and readable; no bumpy roads, no repetitions, and be sure to watch your "diction," that is, proper choice of words. Remember, knowing and targeting your audience is most important. Also, be sure that you have proper transitional devices between paragraphs, and that the writing has cohesion, logical sequence and order. Outlining beforehand will help you considerably. Don't scatter your evidences. Organize them by priority or impact. Above all, project your own *voice* and personality.

Example 1: Edvard Munch's *The Scream* (1893) best exemplifies the state of mind of many human beings who are caught in the paradoxes and interstices of modern society ... etc.

Example 2: For many people in Trinidad, the colorful calypso season speaks of pride and joy in the midst of penury. It is an event that tune-ups and re-calibrates many to continue their toils during the rest of the year ... etc.