WRITE LIKE AN ARTIST—

Walk and Write Assignment!

In **observational writing** you present your view of something you have observed closely over a period of time. You describe all its details, especially those related to your five senses.

**Your task:**

Escorted by your teacher, you will take a walk somewhere on campus. For fifteen minutes, you will have time to gather details about a chosen subject. First, quickly list subjects you notice. List 5-10 objects in the first few minutes of your observation. Next, focus on one object/subject. List as many details about this subject that you can, focusing on sensory details to describe your object/subject. Closely observe this subject and look until you see something you hadn't noticed before, until the object/subject actually seems somewhat unfamiliar. What's new? Can you describe it? Include as many bulleted facts, sensory details, and actions that you can as you observe.

\*Remember to pay close attention to your subject, and take a questioning and inquiring stance.

When you return to the class room, you will write about your observations, developing your visual eye. Use details and color to tease the reader’s visual appetite. Remember what author Robert Newton Peck explains in his book Secrets of Successful fiction:

***Readers want a picture---something to see, not just a paragraph to read. A picture made out of words. That's what makes a pro out of an amateur. An amateur writer tells a story. A pro shows the story, creates a picture to look at instead of just words to read. An accomplished author writes with a camera, not with a pen.***

Even though you are not writing something fictional, practice fictionalizing details to create an even more vivid picture in the reader’s mind, and write “with a camera, not with a pen.”

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Choose from your repertoire of sentence structures emphasizing using the appositive to develop your description, and write like an artist!