

ENGL 1102: DESCRIPTIVE ESSAY

Before you venture into Victorian literature, you will write a personal narrative that uses architecture as an organizing tool. The genre will be creative non-fiction, allowing you to embellish many of the details from your personal history. For your essay, draw upon a memory from one of your childhood homes that captures the essence of your identity.

Detail the structure of the space, as well as the design. What does it feel like to inhabit that space? How does your memory taste or smell? Consider how one aspect of your identity emerges from that space. Perhaps it is an alcove looking out into a dense forest, where you nurtured your love of nature and sense of introspection.

OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES

- The overall purpose of this project is for you to reflect firsthand on relationships between space and identity, so that you can identify these qualities in the literature and art we examine this semester.
- You will practice drawing upon multisensory memories to recreate a sense of space, using Bachelard's *Poetics of Space* as inspiration. Your prose will exhibit mastery in descriptive language and concrete imagery in its depiction of space.
- You will formulate a thesis on your identity and its roots in the space you describe. Your essay will persuade readers to see a link between space and identity. You will use a narrative of architectural details to organize your essay.

WOVEN COMPONENTS

WRITTEN: Write a 1000-word essay that engages in sensory detail and establishes a unifying thesis on your identity in terms of a childhood home. Your essay will engage in creative exposition as well as persuasive techniques, in order to unite your memory of a childhood home and your conception of your present identity.

ELECTRONIC: Publish your essay to T-Square blogs following the standard conventions of online magazines.

NONVERBAL COMPONENT: Engage in sensory observations of a childhood memory. Recognize how space feels and how it is remembered in nonverbal modes. Translate nonverbal messages into creative prose.

DEADLINES

Jan 26: First draft (1000 words) due on T-Square Forum by 6am.

Jan 28: Complete peer reviews of first drafts on T-Square Forum by 6am.

Feb 2: Final drafts (1000 words) due on your individual T-Square Blog by 6am.

Essay is worth 15% of your final grade.