**Descriptive Essays**

* It's important for you to identify exactly what you want to describe. Often, a descriptive essay will focus on portraying one of the following:
* -a person
* -a place
* -a memory
* -an experience
* -an object

Example: Imagine that you want to write a descriptive essay about your grandfather. You've chosen to write about your grandfather's physical appearance and the way that he interacts with people. However, rather than providing a general description of these aspects, you want to convey your admiration for his strength and kindness. This is your reason for writing the descriptive essay. To achieve this, you might focus one of your paragraphs on describing the roughness of his hands, roughness resulting from the labour of his work throughout his life, but you might also describe how he would hold your hands so gently with his rough hands when having a conversation with you or when taking a walk.

* As you write your descriptive essay, you need to be careful that you show, don't tell. But what's the difference between showing and telling?

Consider these two simple examples:

* 1) I grew tired after dinner.
* 2) As I leaned back and rested my head against the top of the chair, my eyelids began to feel heavy, and the edges of the empty plate in front of me blurred with the white tablecloth.
* to create a vivid experience for your readers, you need to focus on the five senses (sight, sound, smell, touch, taste)