# *Descriptive Writing: An Interesting Place*

Write a 400-500 word description of a place that you know well. Your chosen place *must be real, not imaginary*.

**How to make your description *focused* and *clear*:**

Choose a place we can see completely (e.g. not an entire city, but rather

one city corner or block; not an entire resort, but a single spot or piece within it, perhaps one with an excellent vantage point from which to observe detail).

Quickly establish the point of view from which you wish the reader to experience the place. From what physical perspective and position do you want the reader to see the place? Will the reader be stationary or moving (e.g. walking, in a car, or on a ski lift?) Once you have established a point of view, stick to it, or your reader may become confused.

Present the details of your description according to a plan that your reader can follow. Make the plan evident in the way you structure your description. There are different ways to plan a description, depending on the place you have chosen, the details you want to highlight, and the general effect you want to have on the reader.

**Make your description *vivid* and interesting:**

1. Appeal to more than just the reader’s sense of sight. What do we hear and smell in this place? Are the senses of touch and taste relevant?
2. Try employing a few vivid figures of speech, such as metaphor and simile.
3. Concentrate on lively word choice, particularly with respect to verbs, adjectives, and adverbs.
4. Aim for a variety of detail, but overall *unity of effect.*
5. Eliminate any explicit references to your own emotions or feelings about the place. Instead, aim to arouse a particular feeling within the reader through your choice and arrangement of words (diction) and images (figures of speech). *Include plenty of concrete detail, and some abstract detail as well.*

**Workshop Dates:** Monday, September 18 and Wednesday, September 20

**Due Date**: Friday, September 22