Al-Mustaqbal Uni.

Department of English Language

*3r year /Essay & letter writing*

Lecture 1

Descriptive Writing

**Definition**:

Descriptive writing is a text that describes a person or a place or thing or an event using the five senses.

The main goal of Descriptive Writing is to create a vivid and moving picture in the reader’s mind. You need to make the readers fell like they are part of what is going on. This can be done using 3 techniques:-

1. *Sensory details*
2. *Shown not tell*
3. *Figurative language*

* ***Sensory detail*** use the five senses: sight, smell, taste, sound, and touch. To add depth of detail to writing. Use them to bring your story to life. Use them right so the reader can actually see the beach, hear the birds, smell the flowers, taste the ice cream or feel the breeze.
* ***Show - not tell*** technique shows the reader the actions and feelings instead of telling. Do not tell the reader the girl was scared, show her actions and feelings instead. For instance, she was biting her nails and her hands were shaking. If you want to describe the weather, do not tell the reader it was fall but show the reader actions and feelings during the fall.

*Example*. The dry orange leaves crunched under my feet.

* ***Figurative language*** is when you describe something by comparing it to something else. For instance: instead of saying she ran fast write she ran as fast as lighting. Here you used a simile to compare the girl to a lightning and this is memorable because it makes the reader look at the girl running from a different angle.