

Writing 2203

## Descriptive Writing – Objective vs. Subjective

Descriptive writing uses careful **diction** (word choice) to create images of people, places, and objects. There are two extremes to descriptive writing: Objective Scientific Description or Subjective Impressionistic Description.

**Objective Scientific Description** is like a picture or diagram. It's un-opinionated, factual and concise. It's used in transactional writing, such as in science text books, technical manuals, or police records.

**Subjective Impressionistic Description** is found in creative writing, such as poetry and prose. It's opinionated and the writer selects the information he or she would like to include. The focus of the description is the writer's attitude toward the subject/his or her feelings and personal observations.

### Shoe Description Assignment

(note: you will need to wear the same pair of shoes to class for the next few days please!)

Due: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Write a well-developed paragraph describing your shoe, using objective scientific description. Focus on exact details, measurable and quantifiable diction, and facts (colour, size, age, brand, etc.). Give your paragraph an appropriate title.
2. Write a well-developed paragraph describing your shoe, using subjective impressionistic description. Focus on your opinions and feelings, and choose diction relating to sensory details (the 5 senses), similes, metaphors, etc. (is your shoe comfortable, attractive, worn out; memories you associate with the shoe, etc.). Give your paragraph an appropriate title.
3. If needed, write a good copy of each paragraph to pass in for evaluation. Make sure your name and the date are on the top of the page. Draw a sketch/picture of your shoe to go with your paragraphs. When you're all done, pass in your paragraphs and sketch for evaluation.

## **Shoe Description Samples:**

### **Objective Scientific Description**

#### **Brown Leather Shoe**

My shoe is a dress shoe made of soft brown leather. It's a size 6W; about 25cm long and 9cm across at its widest point. There is printing on the inside of the back heel that says, "made in China" in August of 2012. It has a rubber sole on the outside, and a fabric insole on the interior. There is decorative light brown stitching running all around the sole and an even pattern around the leather upper. There's also a small square of brown elastic on either side of the top. There are some scuff marks in the leather, and some of the stitching is becoming frayed, showing that the shoe has some wear and is not brand new. Despite its age, the shoe still smells of leather, although sometimes when I walk my shoe makes a squeaking noise.

### **Subjective Impressionistic Description**

#### **Comfortable Work Shoe**

My brown leather shoe is so comfortable! I had to buy new shoes for work, and because I stand for most of the day, I knew I'd need a shoe that would feel nice. It's size 6W and fits perfectly. It has attractive, decorative stitching around the rubber sole and over the soft leather upper. The stitching makes is nice and even, like train tracks across a field. Although it is getting a little worn, and some of the stitching is coming loose and there are scuff marks, it still looks pretty good for its age. My shoe even still smells nice like leather, not like stinky, dirty feet. I also love my shoe because I remember when I bought it – while shopping with my sisters at the Upper Canada Mall in Newmarket, Ontario. We had a great day shopping together and when I see my shoe I remember the time I got to spend with my sisters last July. The only part of my shoe that I don't really like is that sometimes it squeaks when I walk, like I'm being followed but a duck! All in all though, I'm quite happy and comfortable when I'm wearing my brown work shoe.