

Two-Step Descriptions

Step 1: Describe each sense individually.

SIGHT—

I am surrounded by clutter. There are papers strewn everywhere, scraps with bits of writing on them that have been discarded. In the corner of my desk there are several cans where I have found myself indulging in too much cola. The surface of the desk is peeling from too many spills, cheap wood-grain paper covering the cheap particle board of the desk purchased from Walmart over two years ago.

SOUND—

The sound of the announcer on *Friday Night Smackdown* grates on my nerves, one of the indulgences my husband allows himself. Behind me I can hear our cats devouring their evening meal, small crunching sounds emanating from their corner of the kitchen. My fingers fly across the keyboard, making their own clacking sounds, and my daughter coos quietly from her room where she struggles to fall asleep with the sound of wrestling in the background.

SMELL—

There is a slightly stale odor in the air from the house being closed up for the winter, and the faint smell from the diaper pail, ready to be taken out to the trash to be picked up on Monday morning. The aroma of my own shampoo is quite pleasant, though beneath it the chemical smell from my latest dye tickles my nose and makes me want to sneeze.

TOUCH—

There is a slight chill in the room as night has fallen, and my bare arms feel a bit prickly. My back aches from slouching at the computer and writing, reminding me that I need to improve my posture. My nose is telling me that it is allergy season and I feel congested in my sinuses. There is a draft around my ankles, making me shiver.

Step 2: Pull the best phrases/sentences and merge them into one description.

Clutter surrounds me, and reminds me that there is housework that needs to be done whenever I find the time and can tear myself away from doing what I love. There are scraps of paper littering my desk, and my nose wrinkles at the dank smell from the diaper pail in the next room. The unpleasant voices from *Friday Night Smackdown* are a distraction from my focus, but the distraction gives me enough time to notice the pain in my spine and to straighten my posture.