

Name Class Date

Average Writing Model

Writing Process in Action: Descriptive Writing (Unit 3, pages 148–151)

Assignment: For a photography exhibition catalog, write a vivid one- to two-page description of a scenic photograph and convey its emotional impact.

Mae Kelley’s Invisible Border

The photograph, “Invisible Borders”, makes the viewer feel happy to be alive but also stirs up other complicated feelings as well. In the foreground there is the wonderful sea. The top part of the picture is dominated by the sky, heavy with clouds but not depressing. In the middle of the picture, between the sea and sky, is a town.

The photograph is divided into three parts. The bottom part of the photograph, the sea, quickly turns from water into a quilt of colors spread over the ground. Silver, blue, brown, yellow, and white are visible in the sea. It is amazing that all these colors can be picked out of an ocean. The shape of a small town is seen from a distance and looks like its sitting on the sea. The windows of some houses glow in the afternoon light. The town is surrounded by a beautiful sky. The joyful sky takes up the top portion of the picture.

This photograph is as beautiful as the famous paintings of nature found in museums. The work is that good—it could be in a museum. When you study the photo from up close, you see many details you missed. For instance, in the bottom left of the photograph, there is the masthead of a fishing boat. The ropes and cords look like an insect’s antennas reaching up to the sky in thanks, celebrating something we can never know.

“Invisible Border” is one of the photographs of fishing towns and the sea in this exhibition. Unlike some of the others, this one fills the viewer with an unusual combination of sadness and joy.

Summary: *This description attempts to use spatial order to present physical details about the photograph; however, the overall organization is ineffective. The piece introduces the photograph twice, first with general description, then with more specific details. Nevertheless, many sentences still lack adequate detail, and the emotional response is not adequately supported by the description. Also, the use of figurative language is awkward and unclear.*

This piece might receive a 2 if evaluated by the holistic scoring method. It might receive a 77 if evaluated by the analytic scoring method—24 points for Focus/Organization, 27 points for Elaboration/Support/Style, and 26 points for Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics.

Opening introduces photograph, but emotional response is not clear.

Includes some vivid details, but many word choices are too general

Uses figurative language, but idea is confusing

Provides details about exhibition, but conclusion’s suggestion of emotional impact lacks support