

Description Essay Pattern

Isabel Allende “The Amazon Queen” p. 173

1. In this essay, what form(s) of conflict apply?
2. Who is her audience? What is her tone: formal or informal?
3. Look at paragraph 9 on page 174. What senses does she invoke here?
4. When discussing the living conditions of the native people in paragraph 11 are her descriptions subjective or objective?
5. What senses does she invoke in paragraph 13?
6. Find a possible example of magic-realism in the text.
7. What important image does she imitate with her writing style?
8. In what manner does she tie the last paragraph back with the first?
9. What sequence of order has she placed the events in the essay?

N. Scott Momaday “The Way to Rainy Mountain” p. 180

1. Why do you think the editors placed this essay in the Descriptive section of the text rather than Narrative?
2. What level of formality is this essay?
3. What is the main conflict in the full essay?
4. What is his main topic?
5. What is the relevance of the historical/geographical format in the opening paragraph if he is intentions are to write details about his grandmother?
6. Why does he offer the reader her name?
7. Why does Momaday recount the folk tale of the eight children?
8. Look at ¶ 9. Momaday mentions his grandmother “never forgot her birthright” — do you feel he has the same feelings, or does he feel a disconnect?
9. In what ways is this essay similar to E. B. White’s essay “Once More to the Lake”?