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Assignment 1

Part A: 210 words

I opened the door to enter *Savannah's Flowers and Gift Boutique* and immediately noticed the heady fragrance saturating the air of the shop. Following the intriguing smells led me to a skillfully carved, wooden shelving unit nestled in a cozy corner that faced a wall of floor to ceiling windows. Through the windows, I was able to hear the relaxing sounds of the rain falling lightly outside. Inhaling the scents of cinnamon and sandalwood, emanating from the candles and potpourri being displayed on the shelves of the module, gave me the impression of being witness to some ancient sacred ceremony.

To the right of the shelving unit, motor gently humming, was a cooling case. Through the case's glass doors I could see a handful of fresh flower bouquets. Instantly, my eyes were drawn to a collection of intensely bright yellow and white daisies that brought thoughts of happiness and light upon viewing them. Also sharing the case were dozens of the traditional St. Valentine's Day gift of long-stem, ruby red roses. However, occupying the same shelf was a particularly breathtaking arrangement of roses whose striking petal color pattern of demur peach transitioning into fiery red was so wholly magical it was as if they had been conjured by Merlin himself.

Part B: 215 words

I was nearly overwhelmed by the pungency of the air as I opened the door of *Savannah's Flowers and Gift Boutique*. By following the unpleasantly strong scent I was able to locate where the mixture of smells that were causing such offense to my nostrils were emanating from. I found in a dimly lit corner an angular, wooden shelving unit practically hidden among the clutter of various items of home décor. The unit itself was tightly packed with candles, waxes, oils and potpourri. Each item dispersed a different smell which assisted in explaining the strength of the sickeningly sweet odor in the surrounding environment.

To the right of the mountainous collection of scent there was a cooling case. The roar of its motor, reminiscent of fabled dragons from myth and legend, suggested that it might be in need of some repair. Straining to see through the smudged glass doors of the case I was able to spy a few bouquets of long-stemmed, ruby red roses that seemed to be benefiting very little from the cooling being performed. The petals on a great many of the roses were withering and darkening, like the peel of a rotting banana, as they died. This abysmal selection of roses would not make for an appropriate St. Valentine's Day gift.

Part C: 519 words

This assignment instructed me to write a positive and negative description of a place where an employed person or people were working. I chose to describe the local florist's shop in my hometown of Bayou La Batre. To gather ideas for the descriptions I sat in the shop for about twenty minutes to do observational writing.

When writing the positive description I tried to bring thoughts of comfort and serenity to the audience. I made sure to pick out things that had positive or soothing memories for me. The choice of a florist's shop was in itself a positive thing because of

my love of flowers. Also, the scent of cinnamon was one of the strongest scents of all the candles. Any time the smell of cinnamon wafts towards me it feels as if I am being awarded a special treat and that is how I wished for the audience to feel as they read. The bouquet of daisies was very uplifting and therefore worked well in this particular angle of vision.

It was very exciting to find a bouquet of roses that stood out so much from the others in the cooler. The buds' colors were so lovely in actuality that I struggled with finding the proper words to present them effectively to the audience. It was difficult to create a sentence that flowed whimsically but did not confuse the audience. After deciding on the adjectives that I felt best described the beauty and power of this feat of nature I then chose to comment on how magical the roses seemed to me. I used the comment concerning Merlin along with the phrase "*ancient sacred ceremonies*" to aid my description in having a mystical feel.

With my negative description I opened with the same point sentence that discussed how I was met with an aroma at the door. To increase the chance of the audience viewing the scene in a negative light I made use of words that have negative connotations. Words like *overwhelm* and *pungent*, while not defined as absolutely negative, often give off-putting impressions. In this description I compared the roar of the cooler motor to that of a dragon in order to tie the writing to my style of fantasy. Along with the dragon simile another bit of figurative language used to convey an image was comparing the rose petals to a rotting banana peel. I was sure that an image of rotting and death would give the description the exact feel that I was going for.

I have taken an English composition course once before and was required to do this same type of assignment. In both instances it was easier to describe something positively rather than negatively. Yet, I can see that stepping out of my comfort zone and being challenged is more likely to enrich my writing. It is very important for me as a writer to realize that the way a subject is perceived by the audience is directly related to my use of figurative language, sentence structure, details that support my intentions and use of specific vocabulary with certain connotations.