

Resources for Assignment A1

Playing with Description, Definition, and Levels of Language

Playing with a dog

Technical Definitions

--parenthetical definition

I was approached by a dog (a brown, furry creature with short legs) who wanted my sandwich.

--sentence level definition

A dog is a mammal with four legs, fur, and a tail that has been domesticated by humans.

--expanded definition

The **dog** (*Canis lupus familiaris*,^[2] pronounced /[ˈkɛɪ.nɪs ˈlʊpəs fʌmɪliɛ ərɪs/](#)) is a [domesticated form](#) of the [wolf](#), a member of the [Canidae](#) family of the order [Carnivora](#). The term is used for both [feral](#) and [pet](#) varieties. The domestic dog has been one of the most widely kept [working](#) and companion animals in human history. Amongst canine enthusiasts, the word "dog" may also mean the male of a canine species, as opposed to the word "[bitch](#)" for the female of the species.

Personal Descriptions --of a particular dog

--sentence level description (1 sentence)

Boo is a 16 year old golden retriever.

--short paragraph (3-5 sentences)

Our dog Boo is a reddish, gold Golden Retriever who is getting very old. His face is getting white, his eyes are glazed with cataracts, and he limps a little. He has a broad forehead and a round chest.

--extended description

Our dog Boo is a reddish, gold Golden Retriever who is getting very old. His face is getting white, his eyes are glazed with cataracts, and he limps a little. He has a broad forehead and a round chest. He tends to huff and puff a lot, especially when he wants something (such as getting fed or water). When he does, his mouth opens and he looks like he is smiling. He is the perfect "man's best friend" because he will follow me around and lay at or near my feet. He also has perfected the art of laying in the best spot to receive any scraps that may fall on the floor. ...more?

Levels of Technicality

--Highly technical document

The **dog** (*Canis lupus familiaris*,^[2] pronounced /[ˈkeɪ.nɪs ˈluːpəs fəˈmɪliɛ ərɪs/](#)) is a [domesticated form](#) of the [wolf](#), a member of the [Canidae](#) family of the order [Carnivora](#). The term is used for both [feral](#) and [pet](#) varieties. ...

--Semitechnical document

any of a large and varied group of domesticated canines (*Canis familiaris*) often kept as a house pet or used for hunting, guarding people or property

--Nontechnical document

The dog is related to the wolf, and is a friend to people.

Classical Levels of Style

--High (formal, presentational)

Canis lupis familiaris

That canine is the sage companion of the king of the castle

--Middle (less formal, public)

Dog. Hound.

Give the dog a bone.

--Low (informal, familiar)

Mutt, pooch, pup, cur

Give the mutt a bone.

Example Assignment A1

One Sentence Personal Description

My name is John Smith, and I am a student at San Antonio College taking courses towards a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering.

Short Paragraph Description

My name is John Smith, and I am a student at San Antonio College taking courses towards a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering. I will be done with my Associates in Engineering in Spring 2010, and I hope to transfer to either Texas A&M or UT Austin after that. I am interested in renewable energy sources and robotics.

Extended Personal Description (familiar tone)

My name is John Smith, but most call me Jack. I'm 22 years old and my major is Mechanical Engineering. I've been here at SAC for two years and will be here for one more year. After that, I'm hoping to go to Texas A&M or UT Austin, but I have no final plans. I moved here from Minnesota two years ago and I really miss the cold; there's nothing better than enjoying a cup of cocoa indoors after coming in from a blizzard. I like to read and bicycle around the city and I'm interested in programming, robotics, and the environment. I'm hoping to end up with a career where I can indulge in all of the things that I like. My mother and my sister also live here in San Antonio.

Extended Personal Description (professional tone)

My name is John Smith and I am a student at San Antonio College. Currently, I am working on Associates in Engineering and hope to transfer to either Texas A&M or UT Austin next year to work on a Bachelors in Mechanical Engineering. I am concerned about the declining amount of natural resources, and I am also interested in automating industrial processes. In the future, I hope that my career takes me down one or both of those paths. My side interests including programming and participating in school organizations. I am a member of MAES (Mexican-American Engineers & Scientists) at SAC where I help tutor classmates in subjects that I have experience in and also engage in promoting engineering as a choice of major