

Vivid Presence

Assignment No. 3 is to write out a 1-2 page description of your "completed project" as a gifted novelist and photographer might capture the scene.

The situation:

Ten years have past. The project you worked so hard to create did get built, very much the way you had envisioned, and is now taking on a mature appearance.

You visit and write out a vivid description to be sent back to (choose one: a friend; the office; your mother; a loved one; the local newspaper etc.). You describe what the place is like now; how it has changed; its look and feel, being as specific as you can.

Writing vividly means avoiding broad generalizations in favor of sensuous specifics. You try to name things and spaces and relationships and **qualities**. You describe what people are doing and how they are using the place. You strive to build an image and a feel for the place in the reader's (listener's) mind.

Of course you are aware that this is a method of pinning imagery to the present state of your desires and that these images are expected to change as you continue to develop your understanding of the project, the people and the place. You begin to feel a kinship with the Imagists and other phenomenological poets of an earlier part of this century whose motto was, **"Not ideas about the thing but the thing itself."**

You realize that in this kind of writing it is the image that is primary and that words are the **colors** on your palette.

Type up to turn in and read your favorite portion to the class during the presentation and discussion period.