Directions: Complete one of the following writing activities.

1. Describe a familiar place, such as a classroom or a mall, under two different sets of circumstances, such as day and night, summer and winter, or crowded and empty.

2. Write a description of a festive holiday scene. Use details that appeal to your reader’s five senses. Your reader should be able to visualize a picture of holiday foods, music, colors, etc., that is appropriate to the mood you are trying to create. Next, try writing a description of a dreary or scary holiday scene. Be sure to use appropriate sensory details again. The smells, tastes, sounds, objects, etc., should be very different from those you picked for your “festive” description. Can you create a story that grows out of one or both of these descriptions?

3. Think of a natural setting that has affected you. The place may be one you visited on vacation once, one you visit frequently, or perhaps it is even your backyard. How does this place affect your thoughts, feelings, mood, and actions? Write an autobiographical piece describing how this setting interacts with your thoughts and/or the actions of your characters.