**Lists, Outlines, Describes, Explain…..**

I pulled these key verbs out of the assessment criteria because they are so prevalent and because I think our students (and us too!) need to “feel” the difference in these terms, personally, so that it’s easier to transport the concepts to the course. Each time they review the assessment for a task have them reflect back on this exercise.

1. Close your eyes. Think of a place that is very special to you. It might be from the past or present. Don’t choose anything that will make you feel sad. Choose a place that is warm and happy. It could be a favourite room in your house, a spot in nature, anywhere…but tangible.
2. Choose a partner. You each have about 2 minutes to list what this place is about. Be brief. Try to avoid the emotional aspect and just give us the straight forward: in the woods, brown cottage, near lake…Only listen to your partner and don’t engage in discussion.
3. Go for a walk, find a new partner. Now try to outline the place. Once again just the details but perhaps with more context. Why did you go there? What was it near? A main colour you associate with it? You have 2-3 minutes. Only listen to your partner and don’t engage in discussion.
4. New partner. Now describe the place as if you were identifying it as one would for a police report. Imagine the listener needs many details to be able to describe it again. Explain it so you partner might even be able to sketch it. Only listen to your partner and don’t engage in discussion.
5. Last partner. You have a little more time 5-6 minutes each. Now really explain this place not only physically but emotionally as well. How did it make you feel? Was it warm or cold? What happened there? Who were you with? Does it still exist? When were you last there? Tell all of this like a story unfolding. When you are finished allow your partner to ask you questions about this place.

Also a great exercise to consider how we communicate in our portfolios or director’s notebooks.

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