

Observation Essay Guidelines and Annotations

An observational paper

- ¥ clearly identifies the subject of the observation
- ¥ establishes the observation point from which the writer observes the subject
- ¥ uses objective statements to recreate a clear picture of the subject and to maintain an objective viewpoint
- ¥ uses accurate language
- ¥ organizes details in a way that makes sense
- ¥ gives an interpretation based on observations

Annotations

- The subject is clearly identified. The reader knows that the essay is about Tooter, a cat, and can begin to imagine what he is like.
- The writer establishes the observation point from which Tooter is observed. The writer observes Tooter one Saturday morning from across a room.
- The writer uses objective details to recreate a clear picture of the subject and to maintain an objective viewpoint. Details include factual description; concrete, sensory language; and narration of events. Thoughts and feelings of the writer are not included.
- The writer uses accurate language. Words such as "shiny, black fur," "silky soft" and "sharply pointed ears" give readers a clear picture of Tooter's appearance. Words such as "stretches" and "curls up" helps readers picture exactly what Tooter is doing.
- The details are organized in a way that makes sense. The writer moves from near to far, focusing first on Tooter's appearance. The writer then moves to chronological, or time order.
- The writer interprets what she observed. Tooter seems content with his life, even without much human companionship.