

## Sample Paper: Depicting a place (Kenny)

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Kenny 1

Mary Kenny  
Professor Hacker  
English 101  
1 March XXXX

### The Phillips Collection

Washington is a unique city for art lovers. There is something for everyone, and it is all free. On the Mall, the Freer offers its oriental treasures, the pristine marble of the National Gallery houses the old masters of the Kress and Mellon collections, and the dynamic new Hirshhorn contains the work of artists of the twentieth century. Not far away, one can browse in the National Portrait Gallery or experience the Corcoran, where something new is always happening. Georgetown and Capitol Hill boast clusters of small commercial galleries abounding with contemporary efforts for those of more adventurous tastes. My favorite Washington gallery, however, is located in the once elegant and still interesting neighborhood surrounding Dupont Circle. There, on 21st Street, just above Massachusetts Avenue, you will find the Phillips Collection.

Duncan Phillips was an art collector extraordinaire. He and his wife, Marjorie, loved the Impressionists, Postimpressionists, and modern masters. Fortunately for us, they acquired their works by the score and hung them with care and pride in their red brick townhouse on 21st Street. When in 1918 Duncan Phillips decided to turn his hobby into a public institution, the house was included. To me, this is the great charm of the Phillips Collection. Many of the paintings still hang in that original residence.

Title is centered.

The opening paragraph announces the focus of the paper.

Use of second-person point of view (*you*) draws readers into the scene.

As you stroll up 21st Street, the townhouse facades conjure up a feeling of a bygone era--an era of teas and debutante parties and glittering balls. Enter the door at 1612, and you find yourself not in a museum but in a gracious home whose owners have been kind enough to ask you in to view their treasures.

Wander at will through the rooms. Bask in the beauty of the van Goghs, the Degas, the Cézannes. On a quiet day--and it usually is quiet and uncrowded there--you will swear you can hear the tinkle of crystal and the music and laughter of an elegant, long-ago party.

Specific details make descriptions vivid.

Suddenly, in the midst of your musings, you find yourself in a room ablaze with light, color, and life. There on the wall is Renoir's Luncheon of the Boating Party. Take a seat and treat yourself to a longer look. Settle back and feel the joy and warmth of the painting. Smell the early summer breeze off the Seine. Hear the rustle of the leaves and the hum of the conversation. Stay as long as you like, but remember, there is more.

Transitional sentence leads to the next part of the paper.

As the collection grew, it became evident that the Georgian townhouse could not adequately display the new acquisitions. So in 1960 a new wing was opened adjoining the Phillips home. It too is beautiful in a different way and houses the more contemporary part of the collection.

As you enter the new wing, you will feel a quickening, a transition from yesterday to today. Gone are the lovely mantelpieces and views of the charming walled garden. Here all is clean and uncluttered to display to best advantage the blazing colors

and stark lines of the modern masters. You will find Picasso and Pollock and Dalí and Braque in profusion.

Don't miss the Rothko room. Here, against a black background, are hung Mark Rothko's huge color paintings. As you sit here, you will find yourself surrounded by pure, pulsating, sensuous color. Relax. Clear your thoughts and allow yourself to absorb the impact of the blazing reds and yellows, the soothing tranquillity of the blues and greens. The results are unforgettable.

Assuming that you now can't wait to visit the Phillips Collection and claim it for your own, I must warn you that getting there is not half the fun. The neighborhood, while interesting and charming, is a maze of narrow one-way streets totally devoid of parking spaces. However, there is a Metro stop within two or three blocks, and I promise you the walk will be interesting.

In any event, go and see the Phillips Collection. On Sunday afternoons at five, there is the bonus of a free concert by talented young musicians. If you are an art lover, you can't miss. If you are not an art lover, you just might become one.

Sensory details help readers experience the gallery as the writer did.

The conclusion encourages readers to visit the museum.