

FIGURE 13.3 Flowchart for Revising a Descriptive Essay

QUESTIONS

1. Without looking at your essay, *state* the dominant impression in a sentence. Then **highlight** the sentences in the essay that express the *dominant impression*. Do these sentences successfully convey the impression?

YES



REVISION STRATEGIES

- Reread your essay. Make a list of the different impressions it conveys.
- Choose one impression that you have the most to say about, and brainstorm to develop additional details that support it.

NO



QUESTIONS

2. Place a ✓ by each sensory detail. Does each detail support your *dominant impression*?

NO

- Eliminate irrelevant sensory details.

YES

3. Review the sensory details you have ✓'d. Is your language vivid enough to help readers visualize the topic? Are the connotations of your language appropriate?

NO

- Brainstorm additional sensory details.
- Replace passive verbs with active ones.
- Vary your sentences.
- Replace words with inappropriate connotations with words that better support your dominant impression.

YES

4. [Bracket] each comparison—simile, metaphor, and analogy. Is each fresh and effective?

NO

- Eliminate clichés.
- Brainstorm fresh comparisons.
- Instead of writing, try speaking to a friend.

YES

5. Write a brief outline showing how you have organized your details. Is it clear from your essay how the details are organized?

NO

- Rearrange your details in a different order. Experiment to see which works best.
- Add transitions where necessary to connect your ideas.

YES

6. Underline the topic sentence of each paragraph. Compare the sensory details (✓) to the topic sentence. Does the topic sentence make clear what the paragraph is describing?

NO

- Revise so that each paragraph has a clear topic sentence and supporting details clearly relate to the topic sentence.

YES

7. Reread your introduction and conclusion. Is each effective?

NO

- Revise your introduction and conclusion so that they meet the guidelines in Chapter 7.