

Appendix 1.2. First-Person Writing Activity

In your group, write a first-person account of Slam’s surroundings from the perspective of one of the following characters or objects (Myers, 1996, pp. 2–3):

- The hissing radiator
- Slam’s little brother talking in his sleep
- The boom box spilling out the latest tunes
- The bottle of wine somebody dropped
- The sirens, bringing their bad news from far off
- The clang of the garbage trucks
- The people . . . starting off downtown to their jobs
- Mamas yelling for their kids who go to school to wake up
- Salty, the [howling] pit bull Akbar keeps in his shop

Your account should describe people, places, images, and objects already mentioned in the setting, albeit in greater detail. Start by brainstorming and outlining your paragraph individually before comparing your notes and writing as a group.

When you finish, collaborate with your group members to consider how a still photograph of your scene might look, and practice positioning yourself in a silent freeze-frame so that your classmates will be able to guess which characters and objects are described in your photograph.