Descriptive Writing Peer Review

What to analyze for:

Idea
- Are the focus and mood about the place intriguing—not the first idea anyone would have?
- Is the idea worded well—clear, specific, vivid
- Does the idea connect the point, purpose, and audience (at this point educated, adult readers)

Organization
- Organization in the paragraph exhibits overall unity and coherence
- Excellent and effective lead-in
- Logical sequencing of support
- Good coherence (smooth and logical transitions between sentences and between “chunks” of support)
- Definite and effective conclusion
- Uses only one linear sequence pattern

Topic (Summary) Sentence
- This must be the first sentence in the paragraph.
- The first half must name the topic.
- The last half must present the focus and mood of the place.
- The organizational framework for all the parts and specific details of the place is logical and unified.

Closure Sentence
- This must be the last sentence in the paragraph.
- This sentence must drive home the focus and mood of the place

Development
- Depth and breadth—levels of specificity—of the parts of the paragraph work well together toward the whole
- Balanced and unified use of relevant specific detail to support the topic sentence
- Complete, specific and balanced support for topic

Expression
- Variety and power in syntax, tone, voice, diction, flow/fluidity, literacy
- Level of language use is appropriate for subject and audience
- Instances of powerful language
- Shows consistent control
- Are all sentences frontshifted?
- Did the author rewrite all useless passive voice to active voice?
- Has the author eliminated all being verbs in version three?

Grammar
- Check all the mechanics, punctuation, and sentence structure
- Do all the strings of words (from a capital letter to a period) form one sentence—not an RO, CS or FRAG?
- Did the author use the right word? (Does each word mean what the author wants to say? Is each word the best one for the job?)
- Did the author spell everything correctly?
- Are the possessives marked correctly or do they look like plurals?
- Are all the correctly spelled words also the right word for the use?
- Do all the nouns and verbs match (singular/singular; plural/plural)?

List some “best choices” (at least three of each)
Nouns used:
Verbs used:
Adjectives used:
Adverbs used:
Phrases used: