

## Creative Kickstarter #1

Here's a quick activity you can do before dipping into a more serious creative writing session or just as a fun way to start your regular class. When I'm teaching creative writing classes I start every class with a different Creative Kickstarter. I think it's a great way to transition from your regular day into creative writing.

For this activity you'll need three or four different scenic photos. Divide the class into three or four groups and assign each group one photo. Their task is to write for five to ten minutes (depending on their ability) describing the scene in the photo. Make sure they try to use all five senses, not just sight, when they describe the scene. They shouldn't worry about spelling or structure, just trying to describe the scene using words.

Bonus: Sometimes I'll get volunteers to read their writing for the group and we try to guess what photo they were assigned.

The example below is a photo I took of Martinique Beach in Nova Scotia:



Students could write about the sound of the waves, the smell of the salt water, the contrast of the colours from green to white to blue. More advanced writers might choose to change their perspective, perhaps putting themselves on the beach or even in the water. I once had a student who described a beach from the perspective of a dog, which was an interesting twist.