

Assignment: Turning Generalizations into Specifics

Example

Generalization: The fridge smelled funny.

The fridge smelled funny. At first I thought it was just my imagination, but when I pulled the milk carton out and felt a solid chunk of something gurgle around in the bottom, I knew that things were not right. I peeled the lid off the Tupperware container on the middle shelf. Last Monday's leftover ravioli was now covered in a pale blue fuzz and the acrid smell of rotting meat singed my nostrils briefly before I resealed the container. Upon further investigation, I found that two of the eggs were cracked and oozing onto the shelf. A sulfurous vapor rose from the carton, and I gagged as I reeled back. Tears in my eyes, I squinted into the depths of the refrigerator. Way at the back, shadowed by the big Pepsi bottle and a half-used bag of now-rotting brown and yellow salad, was a mysterious plate covered in tin foil. What could it be? Fighting the rising tide of nausea, I reached into the forest of horrifying aromas and pulled out the plate. Upon removing the tin foil, I was astounded to discover that the object underneath had no smell whatsoever. I think it had been at the back of the fridge so long that it was petrified, and I still have no idea what it was. I replaced the foil and slid it far back onto the middle shelf, continuing my search. The cheese drawer proved to be a virtual laboratory of interesting odors: the cheddar was no longer orange, but a sickly shade of blue-green, and the Swiss had somehow liquefied in its Ziplock bag, so it looked like curdled milk. The overpowering sourness of rotten dairy products got the best of me, and I closed that drawer and moved along to the vegetable crisper. The carrots inside were soft and flexible enough to tie in granny knots, and what was apparently once a cucumber was now slowly pickling itself in its own milky juices. "Gross!" I wheezed as I pulled my head from the fridge. Mom had been right. The power had gone off when we were away on vacation.

Try turning one of these generalizations (or another of your choice) into a well developed, specific piece of writing like the example above:

The cake was good.

He has a cool car.

My favorite class is _____.

The weekend was a drag.

Your friend is very weird.

That was awesome!

Your sister is cute.

Grandma is nice.

This is amazing!

Ooh, gross!

The dog looked dangerous.

It was a scary situation.

That was a bad storm.

_____ is _____.
(Name of person) (abstract adjective)

Submit your SPECIFIC rewrite via e-mail: mrthompson@dsdmail.net