



WriterLink.org

## EXPLORING SENSES

This exercise explores the five senses, touch, sight, hearing, smell and taste. If we consider all the senses when we write we can create more powerful descriptive prose.

A simple exercise involves asking your writers to write a scene involving one sense particularly. Another simple tactic is to write a scene using all five senses.

Another idea is to ask writers to close their eyes and stay still and consider what they can smell, hear, feel or taste. Ask them to open their eyes and write about the sensory experiences they noticed.

You might also ask writers to create a story or scene writing from the point of view of someone who is deaf or blind. They will need to rely on the other senses to accurately portray them in writing.

Another exercise exploring senses involves thinking of a place that is visited frequently. Perhaps a shop, a restaurant, or a holiday place. Ask the writers to think of a place and write down each of the five senses, and then think of the things they could put in each section.

A list might look like this.

The beach

Sight: Bright sky, sparkling sea

Sound: Waves lapping

Touch: Wind on my skin

Smell: Salty seaweed

Taste: Creamy ice cream

Ask the writers to share their experiences of the exercise, they might discuss which senses they describe most when they write, and why.