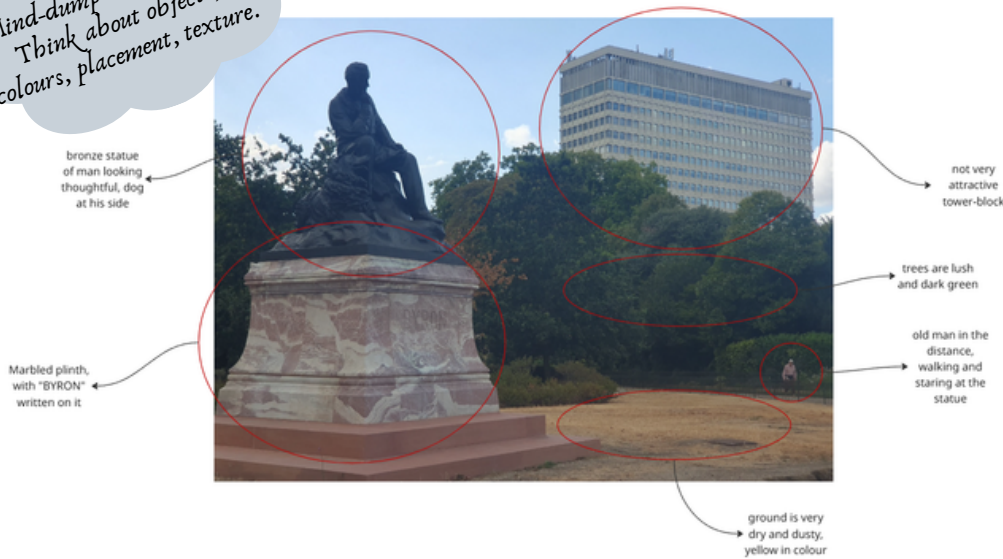


Take a Photo

Mind-dump what you see.
Think about objects,
colours, placement, texture.



Put it together as a brief, factual paragraph. Don't try to be clever, just clear.

I see a large bronze statue which shows a man sitting with his dog. The plinth below is marbled and has the name "Byron" inscribed on it in capital letters. The ground around it is dusty and dry, it is yellow in colour. There is a man walking past who has a baseball cap and a bumbag, he seems to be looking at the statue. Behind a row of trees there is a large tower-block. The sky is blue and there are a few clouds.

Take one or two sentences and ask some questions about it.

Now try to expand that sentence.

Synonyms: big, enormous, massive.
How does the writer feel about the size of the statue? Impressed?
Scared?

Can this be expressed more precisely? Or more succinctly?
"a statue of a man", "a statue depicting a man"?
Do we need to say "statue" at all? Could we simply say "a man cast in bronze"?

What are you doing at this moment?
Do you stumble upon the statue by accident, were you heading for it deliberately?

What does the man look like?
What is he wearing?
Is he old or young?
How is he sitting - does he seem tired, alert, happy?
What is his facial expression?
Is there anything noticeable about his hair or his physique?

Does the dog deserve its own sentence?
If so, what features should we focus on?
What is implied by the dog's position and facial expression? What sort of dog might it be? If you don't know, what can we say about its appearance?

I see a large bronze statue which shows a man sitting with his dog.

Towering over me sits a man sculpted in bronze. He gazes thoughtfully into the distance, a wry smile playing on his lips. Next to him, a shaggy collie sits obedient and alert, awaiting the instruction to move.

Rearrange the sentences, the subjects and objects, and see how this affects its impact. Try some different words and structures.

The dog is alert but motionless. He gazes adoringly up at his master who sits with equal stillness, a smile playing on his lips, his bronze hair unruffled by the breeze. They tower over me from an imposing marble plinth which bears the man's name - Byron - in ornate capital letters.

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