

ESSAY 1 PHASE 1

Student 3 • Prof. Mani • Fall 2020

The cool breeze rushes past, leaving little goosebumps on my arm. A salty smell wafts through my nostrils. As the chilled air flows through my dark brown hair, a loud squawk moves closer to me. My toes squirm and stretch across the soft, squishy floor. I take a deep breath of air, allowing the warmth of the bright afternoon sun to run through me. I am in paradise. But just like a sweet dream, it's over too soon. My eyes widen as I realize that I am not on a beach; instead, I'm faced with four baby blue walls and shimmering lights. Disoriented, I roll over and lean towards that obnoxious sound. Of course, it's my phone. The white numbers read, "6:30". Oh my god. Where did the time go? All I remember is lying on my bed for one quick minute... Yet, here I am. My legs are sprawled across my ivory comforter, wrinkling the green palm leaves. I look over to the right window where the sun is peeking through my white blinds. I slide off my bed, causing my fuzzy blanket to fall. As I look around the room, I see the beach-my cozy world.

Social media (thank you, internet) has heightened our awareness of things we never gave second thoughts to. Our ideas of what cozy is or what represents coziness are not only affected by our experiences, but by the communities we engage in. Take the subreddit *r/cozypplaces*. This particular forum seeks to promote and identify "cozy" places by allowing members to share photos. The community relies on specific terms, such as amazing, awesome, cozy, and lovely. These critical words enable the discourse to uphold its most prominent value, the creation of cozy places. Although the language used in *r/cozypplaces* seems general and nonspecific, its meanings are different among community members, allowing users to fully embrace their own cozy place.

Outline

1. **Intro**- anecdote and controlling idea

A. My goal is to introduce my mini narrative, and begin to explain my relationship/connection with cozy places. I want to use sensory words and invoke feeling in my reader so that they may relate and connect to my feelings.

B. My room is my "cozy place", and is one of the primary reasons I choose this subreddit. (so cozy that I fell asleep- primarily because it made me feel safe/reminded me of one of my favorite places)

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C. The hardest part would be making the connection clear between my anecdote and controlling idea. I want to interest my reader without making my ideas too obvious. I want to use this story, but I'm not entirely sure on how I can make it seamless. Any suggestions?

2. **Body paragraph 1/2-** amazing and awesome (lexis)

A. I'm not sure if I should do amazing and awesome in the same paragraph and group them together. Or maybe one right after the other. Here I will explain how awesome and amazing have different meanings in this discourse community.

B. Awesome and amazing don't really mean "cozy". Its like a contradiction. Amazing in the English language typically refers to something that causes great surprise. Awesome in the English language means that something is impressive, or causes admiration. (I will explain how/when word(s) are used in the community and meaning in community)

3. **Body paragraph 3-** cozy (lexis)

A. can literally be anything! Because "cozy" is subjective. People use their experiences, views, perceptions and culture to shape their idea of what cozy is.

B. A driveway can even be cozy! (As long as it invokes a feeling in the viewer, particularly one in which they can relate to). (I will explain how/when word(s) are used in the community and meaning.)

4. **Body paragraph 4-**

A. Here I think I will go back to my narration part of essay. I'm not sure if I want to put this part before or after cozy lexis. (Also not sure how exactly I will connect it)

5. **Body Paragraph 5-**

A. Apply 4th word lexis, (lovely). In this community I think that lovely, is referring to a sense of safety. I want to lead in from this idea of safety, to examples of stuff we think are safety or associate with safety. (i.e.- those red bricks create a sense of safety because they are usually located in/outside of older homes. A lot of people own older homes, especially our parents and grandparents. Typically, these adult figures kept us safe when we were little, so we begin,

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even if its subconsciously, to associate places and things to people or feelings). Same concept with experiences and places. Also, a lot of our ideas of cozy come from cultural influences (red riding hood, and the whole brick house thing)

B. **Conclusion-**

- A. ANYTHING CAN BE COZY!!
- B. By sharing all these different cozy places, people can be inspired to create their own cozy place.
- C. A cozy place should essentially- make a person feel safe and invoke happy memories
- D. Because of Covid-19 the necessity for people to have their own cozy place is greater (more important/increased) This is because we can no longer feel safe in the places or around the people we use to feel safe around (restaurants, fear of spending time with family, friends, and grandparents, as you don't want to get anyone sick.)
- E. Anyone can make their own cozy place.

Side note: This first draft is feeling shitty. I wonder if I should include the things that make me identify my beach themed room as cozy? (just because I find colors that work well-together aesthetically pleasing, and therefore cozy). People might agree. Also, a lot of youtubers have spread their ideas of cozy into mainstream media- like how fairy lights, letterboards, and candles are all associated with this conceived notion of cozy. Or maybe this thought would work better for essay 3? (update: definitely an essay 3 idea)