Writing About Setting
The Setting is the time and place an author chooses for a story.

The Setting Can Reveal:
- What characters have to deal with
- The background for the action
- What goes into defining relationships
- Something about the theme or the motif

Setting and Probability:
- Settings can impact the probability of certain things happening
  - Oceans are needed for shark attacks
- Putting certain people together in certain places can produce a foregone conclusion
  - Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet*

Atmosphere:
- A mood is created by a setting
- Characters, their interactions and their backgrounds help to create a mood or atmosphere

Characters:
- Where characters operate provides the arena where their desires and decisions come out

Theme:
- When details are repeated or emphasized, or when a setting is unusual or contradictory, this helps reinforce imagery that aids in bringing the author’s theme to the reader

Journey Motif:
- A protagonist, like Odysseus in *The Odyssey*, will move from one setting to the next
- This change will follow a change in psychology
  - A desire, a belief, a habit, a level of maturity can change with each setting encountered

Writing a Paper on Setting:
- Mark the details of setting
- Understand the governing motif, theme or major idea of the work
- A thesis will state and outline how the setting serves the theme
- Supporting paragraphs will focus on an aspect of setting and its impact on development
- of the governing idea