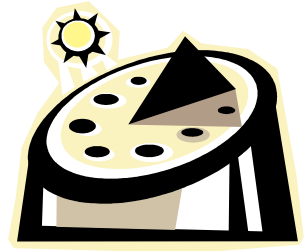


# SIXTY MINUTES: AN EXERCISE IN VOICE



Write your responses on a separate sheet of paper.

## CONCRETE TIME

1. Describe the longest, happiest, or most excruciating hour of your life without using abstractions such as *fear*, *death*, *love*, *happy*, *upset*, or *confused*. Instead incorporate concrete words such as *armchair*, *crooked*, *cornflower*, *sand*, *cement*, or *chalk*. If you cannot see it, smell it, touch it, taste it, or hear it, take it out of your writing. This also applies to verbs (what does “is” look like?; or “could/can”?).

## METAPHORIC TIME

2. We can experience time, see the clock’s arms circle around, and wish we had time back, but it is inherently abstract. For that reason, we attempt to describe it using figurative language. Ex: Time flies when you’re having fun. OR Time crept by like an old man leaning on a cane.

For each of the situations below, write sentence/phrase that captures the speaker’s attitude towards time using figurative language (metaphor, simile, personification).

Imagine you had sixty minutes until...

- a. a loved one moves far away
- b. you collect your first big paycheck
- c. the championship game ends
- d. someone picks you up from a remote location
- e. you have to finish your exam

## ACTIVE TIME

3. Imagine you had sixty minutes before the world ended. What would you do? Using descriptive language, precise verbs, and figurative language, describe your last sixty minutes on earth. Stay in active voice and avoid “to be” verbs.