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Instructor's Name

ENGL 1013

Date

Santa Monica

On the coast of the Pacific and just outside of the colossal towers of Los Angeles lies Santa Monica Pier. The captivating wooden boardwalk acts as an escape from the hardships of everyday life. There is an abundance of entertainment offered, such as amusement rides, restaurants, food stands, and the beach. When the radiant summer sun sinks like an anchor into the Pacific Ocean, then it is the perfect time to visit Santa Monica Pier.

The California sky darkens by the minute as the flashing lights of the boardwalk rides grow more vibrant, reflecting on the moving waves of the ocean. The sharp sounds of screams are barely heard over the roar of a roller coaster cart bolting across the tracks. Hovering over it stands the extravagant Ferris wheel. The ring of lights moves slowly as the buckets fill up with eager tourists. At the top, cell phones peek out to take pictures of the contemporary city surrounded by the blur of mountains that stand miles upon miles away. To the left, parents surround the outside of one of the children's rides to get pictures of their sons' and daughters' smiling faces as they act as professional pilots in their airplane carts.

Across the main walkway is an extended line of people coming out of the Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. restaurant. The unfortunate ones at the end attempt to keep a smile as they endure the hours of waiting for a table on an empty stomach. Behind them are the impatient ones who settled for an overpriced slice of pizza at the small food stand. For dessert there is a man selling fresh, sugary churros out of a cart. Customers compete for bites of them as greedy seagulls sail

down from the sky to snag whatever dinner they can. Just to the left, a crowd five people deep has formed around two young men battling it out in a break dance competition. Their legs are merely blurs as they spin on their heads at what seems to be one hundred miles per hour. Street performers start coming in from nowhere as the sound waves of an acoustic guitar whisk through the air. Artists look overjoyed as their talents bring happiness to the hearts of tourists.

Just below the action of the boardwalk sits the crowded beach. People are scattered throughout the sand and into the ocean as far as the human eye is capable of seeing. Deep footprints reside in the sand, acting as the only memory of those who had come and gone throughout the day. At the edge of the ocean, chilling waves splash over the feet of those watching to catch the last seconds of an orange horizon. Children splash around in the water while their parents lie out on beach towels, waiting for them to become worn out. Couples hold hands and capture the romantic moment of being with the one they love on a beach almost as breathtaking as the eyes they are looking into. As the night continues, more people begin to head back to their cars with heavy eyes, worn out but holding special memories that have been created.

Santa Monica contains an essence of magic in the atmosphere. When one steps foot on the boardwalk, an overwhelming sense of happiness and beauty takes place. Watching the sunset in such a delightful setting is the perfect way to gaze upon the beauty that God created. Without a doubt, it is the best way to experience Santa Monica.