“Aridity and the Desert” (Part 1)

Participant Responses to the Prompt: “Arizona through the five senses…”

**What does Arizona TASTE like?**
- Fresh, seasonal, salsas, wide variety, awareness
- Dry mouth, salty sweat after a run, chips and salsa
- Mesquite, multi-ethnic foods
- Dry, aridity
- Chilies, Mexican food, fast food
- Cilantro
- Grilled napalms, onion and egg tacos
- Green chili
- Richness
- Spicy (\)
- Mexican food (salsa, spicy), prickly pear
- Prickly pear, margarita
- Cool water, hot salsa, margarita, dry
- Mildly acrid taste of too many crusted dreams
- Dry, chili pepper, tacos and salsa

**What does Arizona FEEL like?**
- A comforter right out of the dryer, home
- Five to ten degrees cooler in the shade
- A chokehold
- Dry heat, home, challenging, dry/ spiritual aridity, conservative
- Sharpe, lacy leaves, warm sun on skin
- A rattler shedding its skin
- Sunshine and happiness
- Sticky
- Heavy
- Hot-burning, asphalt, lack of touch/ isolation/ suburbs
- Dry hands, a hot steering wheel, melting handlebars of my bike, gravel under my feet
- Sunny
- Rough surface
- Warm, dry, dusty, variation, comfort
What does Arizona SOUND like?

- Birds, traffic, laughter, thunder
- Frogs after the monsoon
- Ice cream man; car honks and tires screeching; Spanish speakers and Banda music; crunch of tortilla chips; police sirens
- Traffic noises, coyotes, doves
- Woodpecker
- Traffic, silence, a rooster in my neighborhood, the beeping of a ride at Encanto Park
- Serenity and aridity; bustle of a city
- Waves of wind and tumbling
- Crickets chirping in a vacuum
- Cars and planes; coyotes howling, concerts
- Cicadas signaling dusk
- Ancestors humming aby a dying fire
- Stillness
- Rain, coyotes, mariachis
- Hawks piercing mountain stillness
- Traffic, peaceful

What does Arizona SMELL like?

- Creosote, mint, tomatoes, lemon blossoms
- Creosote (a dark brown oil distilled from coal tar used as wood preservative)
- Cows, Creosote
- Creosote
- Desert rain, citrus blossoms
- Dry, clean
- Burnt rubber, engine exhaust
- Sugary melt of ice cream
- Spilled wine
- Dust, sweet desert flowers
- Soft soil after a monsoon rain
- Warm flour tortillas and long black braids
- Mesquite after rain
- Smog
• Creosote
• Dust and rain
• Depends on the day: asphalt, dirt, sulfur, grass, heat on a malleable surface (sunshine)
• Post-mortem of petrichor (a pleasant smell that frequently accompanies the first rain after a long period of warm, dry weather.)
• Stillness
• Hot sewer (Phoenix), road, piney air on Mt. Lemmon
• Palo Verde after rain, asphalt, desert

What does Arizona LOOK like?

• Red, dry, dusty
• Expansive, distant horizons, fields, community gardens
• Blue sky, rainbow sky, pink, light green murals, imagination
• Cacti, Grand Canyon, red rocks, sky (vast, blue sky), brilliant sunsets, citrus trees, cotton fields
• Sunset
• Growth
• Brown bodies hidden behind steel and concrete, or lost navigating this desert
• Mountains, sunrise, sunset, cactus, lakes, pools, bougainvillea
• Wide open skies
• Mars
• City lights (lack of stars in sky), awesome stars outside the desert
• Apocalypse before and after feeding technicolor sunsets
• Open spaces
• Sunshine
• Sky, bright clouds, short buildings, the view from Interstate 10
• Mountains, brown, cactus. Flowers
• Brown mountains against blue sky
• Pink bleeding into peach bleeding into violet skies
  o Cacti like thorny crucifixes
  o Black highways bisected by white dashes
  o Terracotta mountains
  o Beautiful brown and black faces
  o Peachy-pink houses with gravely backyards
  o Cacti, Grand Canyon, red rocks, sky (vast, blue sky)
  o Brilliant