

Descriptive Essays

A descriptive essay is an essay that describes someone or something in colorful, vivid detail. The intent is to create a visual picture with words for the reader. When writing the essay, it is important to observe and record specific details that appeal to the reader's senses (sight, hearing, touch, smell and taste).

Take a look at these sentences and observe the differences in terms of their potential interest to the reader.

Example: "In the window there was a fan." (No appeal to the senses)

Example: "The dusty window fan creaked as its rusty blades circulated the humid, musty air from outside into the apartment." (In this sentence, there is an appeal to the senses. Which senses are triggered?)

Please choose a topic below and write a descriptive essay rich in sensory details.

- . • First, **brainstorm** a list of as many details that support the topic. Use as many senses to describe a scene, a person, or an event.
- . • Then, **organize** your details (physical order, size, or another appropriate order to the topic).
- . • Begin to **write** the essay and include a strong topic sentence that speaks to the topic of the essay.
- . • Develop an introductory paragraph, body paragraph(s), and a concluding paragraph.
- . • **Reread** and revise your essay.
- . • **Proofread** and evaluate your essay using the self-evaluation checklist.

Topic choices:

People and events shape our lives. A certain person or a particular experience might have influenced us positively or negatively. Write about a person or experience which has shaped your life in positive or negative way.

You have just attended a concert, sports event, or a family gathering that you found to be very enjoyable. Write about the event and use vivid detail to help the reader feel as if they were at the event. Tell the reader why the event was so meaningful to you.

Describe from memory a place that you visited as a child. Write about the place and give the reader enough details so that the importance of the place is revealed.

Describe a special natural place in the outdoors that has meaning for you. Describe it in a sensory way that allows the reader to visualize your favorite spot. Be sure to include reasons why this particular outdoor area is important to you.

If you could have a conversation with a famous person (living or dead), whom would you choose? Describe in detail who this person is and why you would want to have a conversation.

What characteristics do you regard as important in a person you would choose as a friend? Describe to the reader in detail why these characteristics are important to you. Use reasons and examples to support your point of view.