

A descriptive essay describes something - a person, an event, a place or a personal experience in detail. The purpose of this essay is to provide enough detail about the topic to enable the reader to picture it.

Here's a complete guide to help you write good descriptive essays. Learn the techniques of expressing yourself to create a great essay.

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What is a Descriptive Essay?

A descriptive essay gives a detailed description of the topic and paints a picture with words in the reader's mind.

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It is used to sharpen the analytical abilities of the students, which is helpful in further education and professional life. Therefore, it is often given to students in high school and college.

According to descriptive essay definition,

"It is the most expressive form of an essay. This type of writing is used to describe and explain an event, a place, a person, or anything in detail."

This essay encourages the student's ability to create an image by appealing to the senses of the reader. The five human senses include hearing, touch, taste, sight, and smell.

Purpose of a Descriptive Essay

The purpose of writing a descriptive essay is to describe something such as a person, object, place, or situation. Descriptive speech or essays give readers a clear picture of the essay subject. The writer should make use of vivid language to help the reader understand what the essay is all about.

It does not involve convincing readers or showing factual information to prove something like an [argumentative essay](#) does. Instead, it aims to show all the important details about the chosen subject to make the reader understand the subject easily.

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Elements of a Descriptive Essay

It comprises of five basic elements including;

1. Sensory Details

It involves arousing the emotions of the readers and creating an association with them. They paint a picture of the subject for the reader and engage their senses like sight, touch, smell, and taste.

2. Figurative Language

Using figurative language is one of the main elements of a descriptive essay. The use of metaphors, similes, adjectives, and adverbs, etc. creates the character sketch of the subject. This sketch helps the readers feel what the writer felt about the subject and helps him visualize the subject.

3. Central Theme

The central theme shapes and directs the essay's content and helps organize the details. It should be well defined and focused on a single point.

4. Precise Language

The effect of your essay depends on the type of language that you have used in it. The language should emphasize the main theme and aim of the essay. Therefore, avoid using vague and ambiguous words.

5. Organize your Ideas

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How to Write a Descriptive Essay

Writing an effective descriptive essay involves topic selection, creating an outline, organizing ideas, and adding relevant information into the essay.

The following is the process of descriptive writing.

Choose a Topic

Choosing a good topic for your essay is important. The essay topic should be attractive so that it compels the reader to stay with you throughout the essay.

Create an Outline

Draft a [descriptive essay outline](#) to organize your information in a proper sequence. It will help you structure your essay and remind you to include all the sensory details.

Write a Descriptive Essay Introduction

The essay begins with an introduction. It introduces the main topic and includes a strong opinion that creates the first impression of the essay. The introduction gives a brief overview of what the essay is going to be about.

Craft an Informative Thesis Statement

A descriptive essay thesis statement defines the scope and purpose of the essay. It is a narrow subject line, which should be clear and precise. Write the statement in a creative way and choose descriptive words for it.

Creating mystery in your thesis statement attracts the reader to the body of your essay.

Compose Body Paragraphs

The body paragraphs support the introduction, the purpose, and follow the direction as defined in the thesis statement. Use topic sentences as the first sentence of each paragraph and back it with supporting evidence.

The next step is to link your paragraphs with transition words. In this essay, most of the transition words used are conjunctions. Make appropriate use of conjunctions that suit your essay.

Write a Strong Descriptive Essay Conclusion

The conclusion is the last part of the essay, this is your last chance to impress the reader. It summarizes and provides a way forward from the essay.

You can use the appropriate words such as “to finish with”, “in conclusion” and ‘lastly’ suggesting an end to the essay. Your conclusion will reinstate the thesis statement and present the findings, in case it is about some research topic.

The last sentence of the essay should finalize the writer’s aim of writing the essay and provide an everlasting effect.

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Descriptive Essay Topics

Whether you are writing about a person or a place, your topic should have good supporting points that explain the topic.

Choosing an engaging topic will develop curiosity and hook the reader to the last bit of the essay. Here we have prepared a list of amazing [descriptive essay topics](#) for you.

Descriptive Essay About a Place

- Depict the Lincoln Castle in your own words.
- What does the house of your dreams look like?
- Make a description of the Safari Park you visited last week.
- Describe a conference room situation for your colleagues.
- Describe how you imagine Niagara falls.

Descriptive Essay About a Memory

- Describe one of the earliest memories of your childhood.
- What is the happiest memory in your mind?
- How you have celebrated your best friend's birthday
- When I saw the apple plant seed
- The first time I went abroad

Descriptive Essay About a Person

- Portray Nelson Mandela as a role model.
- Explain how you imagine aliens to be like

- A stranger I met in the lobby.

Descriptive Essay About an Object

- My lucky watch
- My favorite badminton racket
- The flask I broke
- The silk road
- The thing that you passionately wanted to buy

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Descriptive Essay Examples

It is very important that the writer goes through a number of [descriptive essay examples](#) before writing their own essay. An essay example would help you demonstrate, compile, and organize your essay in a structured form.

The ultimate aim of this practice is to identify and learn different techniques for writing an impressive descriptive essay. Below we have provided some amazing examples to help you know the process.

Descriptive Essay Example (PDF)

to their reputation, the children continue their barrage of sound, undeterred by the half-hearted efforts of their teachers. Finally, however, as the initial rush of eager bodies reduces, the disruption falls to a minimum and the children split off into groups. At the centre of one such gathering sits a rather plain girl putting up with the unwanted attention of several of her social superiors. She is clearly used to this type of bullying, and she continues her meal in silence. Finally bored with watching their comments bounce off the girl without effect, the group turn their attention to a table surrounded by an invisible force field apparently coming from its dozen or so occupants. This group seems to reject any lesser being that attempts to come within three feet of their sacred ground. This creates a ring of admirers who look up to the mixture of reputation and charisma within. Those teenagers within this bubble of admiration seem to have no intention of letting any others into the group. Enough gold and fake diamonds to replicate the entire crown jewels covers the same uniforms that seem to repel any similar attempt by any other pupil. One particular girl, smiling with all the dazzling intensity of a chat show host, is obviously a new addition to the group. Ecstatic at her place in this most sacred of circles, she looks down from the Mount Olympus of the dinner hall at the insignificant drones beneath her, attempting to display some of the haughty dignity of the established members of the gang. As the initial lure of the dinner hall lessens, several of the hardier students decide to brave the weather outside and leave the overcrowded, damp stuffiness to those willing to endure it for its relative comfort and the knowledge that hours spent on hair will not have been in vain. Suddenly a loud crash echoes around the hall bringing most of the children out of their relaxed stupor. For once the whole student body is united in hilarity, all eagerly scanning the three-hundred or more people for the guilty party. The culprit (a minute, year seven boy) stands next to the offending pile of broken china and, as several of the older students begin to whoop, proceeds to flush a deep red as he

Descriptive Essay Sample (PDF)

and/or the parts of this place

Paragraph 3
Describe the activities & what happens here


Paragraph 4
Describe the sensory details: sights, smells, tastes, sounds

the middle of the market. It will help you find your way.

When I walk into the market early on a Sunday morning there are people and cars and motorcycles everywhere. You have to be careful where you walk. Many people are bringing their goods to sell in big bags on carts and trolleys. 5. _____, you might even have to jump out of the sellers' way as they charge along the narrow walkways with their goods. 6. _____ to the sellers, tourists and locals are pouring in looking for something to eat or ready to start shopping. 7. _____, the market gets more and more crowded and you have to start squeezing past people to keep moving.

As you walk through the market you will experience many sensations. 8. _____, there are many smells, scents and aromas. One moment you will be smelling the aromas of stir-fried cooking dishes from a small restaurant and the next you smell the scents of orchids and other flowers as you pass through the cooler and more relaxing garden section. 9. _____, walking deeper into the market, your eyes will have trouble recording so many products with their many colors, designs and sizes. After a while you may feel dizzy and look for a quiet place to have a rest and a refreshing drink. 10. _____, there are many small cafes and drink stalls selling fresh coconut juice, orange juice

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