**Describing places:**

Introduction:

Paragraph 1: name/location/population of the place, reason for choosing the place.

Main body:

Paragraph 2- 3: general features and particular details (place: surroundings, sights, facilities, free-time activities; building: surroundings, detailed description of exterior/interior).

Paragraph 4 - 5: explanationand example/justification.

Conclusion:

Final paragraph : comments/feelings and/or recommendation.

Factual information (age, size, colour, materials…) + sense details + mood and atmosphere + opinions/impressions.

Topic sentences.

Vocabulary: memorable place, well-preserved city, historical importance, busy,narrow streets, breathtaking examples, awe-inspiring sight, abandoned, bleak, cramped, run-down, imposing, bare, deserted, dilapidated, massive, serene, magnificent

Tenses: - Present tenses are normally used when describing a place for a tourist brochure and also when we give factual information. – Past tenses are normally used when describing a visit to a place. – First and second conditional can be used when you describe your ideal city/house.

**Narrative:**

An introduction:

* Setting the scene → place, time, characters…
* Creating an interesting mood/atmosphere to make the reader want to continue reading
* And/or begins dramatically to capture the reader’s attention

A main body:

* Developing the series of events clearly
* Giving vivid descriptions of the people/places involved

A conclusion:

* Completes the story
* Maybe in an unexpected way
* May describe people’s feelings/reactions, the consequences of what happened…

Points to consider:

Writing techniques:

* Setting the scenes: Vivid description of places, people & objects.
* Description of feelings and actions → mood/atmosphere.
* Direct speech.
* A variety of adjectives adverbs.

Since they are normally set in the past you will need to use a variety of past tenses (Past continuous, past simple, past perfect).

Time words to indicate clearly the sequence of events.

YOU CAN START YOUR STORY BY:

♣ Describing the weather, place, people… using the senses.

♣ Using direct speech.

♣ Creating mystery or suspense.

♣ Referring to feelings or moods.

♣ Addressing the reader directly.

YOU CAN END YOUR STORY BY:

♣ Using direct speech.

♣ Referring to feelings or moods.

♣ Describing people’s reactions to the events developed in the main body.

♣ Creating mystery or suspense.

♣ Asking a rhetorical question.

Descriptive vocabulary in narratives:

♣Avoid using simplistic adjectives/adverbs.

♣Use more sophisticated vocabulary (e.g luxurious, extravagant, threatening).

♣Use a variety of reporting verbs (do not use say and tell all the time!!) and other descriptive verbs, making you story more lively: murmur, whisper, mutter…