

Descriptive Writing Guidelines

The goal is to be able to describe anything in a detailed and interesting way.

They will be scored in two ways

1. O = Overall. A score will be given for the overall quality of the paper.
2. R = Requirements. This will be based on how well they completed the list of requirements below.

The two scores will be put together to determine a grade for their essay.

Make sure to include: (Requirements)

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|---|---|---|---|---|-------|
| 1. A “story” to go with the description | 0 | 1 | | | |
| 2. Sensory language | | | | | |
| **At least 3 of the 5 senses must be used | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | Bonus |
| 1. smell | | | | | |
| 2. taste | | | | | |
| 3. touch | | | | | |
| 4. hear | | | | | |
| 5. see | | | | | |
| 3. A simile or metaphor | | | | | |
| *** At least one per assignment | 0 | 1 | | | Bonus |

Simile- comparing two things using the words “like” or “as”

EX- Superman was as fast as a speeding bullet.

Metaphor- comparing two things NOT using the words “like” or “as”

EX- He has a heart of stone. OR She is the apple of my eye.

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|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4. Make sure to be very detailed in your descriptions | 0 | 1 | | | | |
| EX- color, appearance, weight, height, amount, settings, personality traits, etc... | | | | | | |
| 5. Use at least 5 starred words per paper | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6. Give your story a title in your own words- not just the topic of the essay given by the teacher | | | | 0 | 1 | |
| 7. Use an example of onomatopoeia | | | | 0 | 1 | |

- **Spelling counts- Use a dictionary or thesaurus to look up words you are not sure how to spell.**

This activity is meant to build on the writing that we have already done this year, and to take the next step towards improving as writers. It has them focus on a small topic and explain it in detail. The hope is then, after much practice, that these detailed descriptions will be incorporated into their everyday writing, whether it be the description of a setting in a story that they write or an explanation of their weekend in more detail than they previously would have. It also continues to focus on improving the vocabulary that they use in their everyday writing.