

Descriptive Paragraphs

Good descriptive writing

- includes many vivid sensory details that paint a picture and appeals to all of the reader's senses of sight, hearing, touch, smell and taste when appropriate.
- may also paint pictures of the feelings the person, place or thing invokes in the writer.
- often makes use of figurative language such as analogies, similes and metaphors to help paint the picture in the reader's mind.
- uses precise language. General adjectives, nouns, and passive verbs do not have a place in good descriptive writing. Use specific adjectives and nouns and strong action verbs to give life to the picture you are painting in the reader's mind.
- is organized. Some ways to organize descriptive writing include: chronological (time), spatial (location), and order of importance. When describing a person, you might begin with a physical description, followed by how that person thinks, feels and acts.

A sunset!

Sunset is the time of day when our sky meets the outer space solar winds. There are blue, pink, and purple swirls, spinning and twisting like a cloud of balloons caught in a blender. The sun moves slowly beyond the horizon, while the moon races to take its place in prominence atop the night sky. People slow to a crawl, entranced, fully forgetting the deeds that still must get done. There is a coolness... a calmness...
whenever the sun does set

Marks are awarded as follows: (see below)

1. Process writing: planning, editing - **5 marks**
2. Structure: topic and supporting sentences; connectors – **5 marks**
3. Content: original interpretation and understanding of instruction – **5 marks**
4. Sentence structure and vocabulary – **5 marks**
5. Spelling and punctuation – **5 marks**

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	5	4	3	2	1
Process writing: planning, editing	Excellent use of the writing process has produced a refined final draft. Proof reading has eliminated mistakes	Good use of writing process; evidence or progressive improvement in writing piece, mistakes still evident	Has used the writing process but has not translated it into a well-developed piece of writing	Some use of parts of writing process (very basic planning or evidence of editing of first draft) but many errors still remain	Little or no proof reading or editing done: writing still has many uncorrected errors
Structure: topic and supporting sentences; connectors	Well-crafted paragraph. Topic sentence clearly identified. Strong supporting statements. Points are sequenced logically; excellent use of connectors	Good, logical paragraph. Topic sentence easily identified. Supporting sentences good. Points are sequenced; good use of connectors	Paragraph has all necessary features: topic and suitable supporting sentences. Points are sequenced; one or two inconsistencies. Connectors correctly used but limited	Topic sentence not readily identifiable; some irrelevant sentences. Poor sequencing of points; inconsistent use of connectors	No clear topic sentence. Sentences do not support a single idea. Little or no sequencing of points; jumbled ideas; Little or no use of connectors
Content: original interpretation and understanding of instruction	Excellent development of original content. Originality in approach to subject	Good development of relevant content, systematic approach to subject	Adequate development of relevant content, fairly systematic approach to subject	Poor development of content, some detail irrelevant; topic handled systematically	Little or no relevant content, poorly developed; handling of subject inadequate
Sentence structure and vocabulary	Excellent use of language; sentences correctly structured. Extensive vocabulary	Creative use of language; mostly correct sentences. Well-developed vocabulary	Most sentences are correct; some errors in language use. Good vocabulary	Sentence structure fair. Basic vocabulary; several errors in language use	Poor sentence structure; vocabulary below expected level
Spelling and punctuation	Punctuation and spelling correct. No errors in subject-verb concord	Few punctuation and spelling errors. One or two errors in subject-verb concord	Some errors in punctuation and spelling. Several errors in subject-verb concord	Several errors in punctuation and spelling. Has not grasped subject-verb concord	Many errors in punctuation, spelling and subject-verb concord; understanding compromised