

## Structuring a Descriptive Essay

A descriptive essay simply describes something or someone by appealing to the reader's senses: sight, sound, touch, smell and taste. Here are the basic steps to writing an effective descriptive essay:

### 1. Select a subject

Observation is the key to writing a good description. For example, if you are writing about a place, go there and take notes on the sights, sounds, and smells. A descriptive essay paints a picture for the reader, using descriptive devices and the senses. Create a thesis statement that informs the reader who or what you are describing. Examples: "The wooden roller coaster in Coney Island is a work of art." "My bedroom is an ocean sanctuary."

### 2. Select dominant details

Select only the details that support the dominant impression (your thesis statement).

### 3. Organize details

The paragraphs in a descriptive essay can be structured spatially (from top to bottom or from near to far) or chronologically (time order) or from general to specific. Descriptive essays can also use other patterns of organization such as narrative or exemplification.

### 4. Use descriptive words

Do not use vague words or generalities (such as good, nice, bad, or beautiful). Be specific and use sensory, descriptive words (adjectives). For example:

I ate a good dinner.    OR    I devoured a steaming hot, cheese-filled pepperoni pizza for dinner.

Provide sensory details:

- Smells that are in the air (the aroma of freshly brewed coffee)
- Sounds (traffic, honking horns)
- Sights ("The sun scattered tiny diamonds across dew-covered grass as it peeked out from beyond the horizon.")
- Touch ("The texture of the adobe hut's walls resembled coarse sandpaper.")
- Taste: sweet, sour, salty, bitter, tart ("Giant goose bumps formed on my tongue when I accidentally bit into a sliver of lemon.")

# Descriptive Essay Thesis Example

**Dorothy U. Seyler**



### **Descriptive Essay Thesis Example:**

*How to Write an Essay: Writing a Descriptive Essay* Brenda Rollins, 2013-05-01 This is the chapter slice Writing a Descriptive Essay from the full lesson plan How to Write an Essay Take the fear out of writing essays and empower your students by giving them the tools to comprehensively express their point of view Our workbook provides clear and concise lessons about every stage of the writing process Based on Bloom's taxonomy we offer instruction about the four most common types of essays and provide review lessons about verbs adjectives and pronouns You can use this material to supplement your present writing program or for independent student work Also included is a detailed implementation guide student assessment rubric word puzzles and comprehension quiz The six color graphic organizers will assist the introduction of the skill focus and in guiding your students through their successful writing process All of our content meets the Common Core State Standards and are written to Bloom's Taxonomy     Writing First with Readings Laurie G. Kirsznner, Stephen R. Mandell, 2011-12-28 Best selling authors and veteran college writing instructors Laurie Kirsznner and Stephen Mandell believe that students learn to write best when they use their own writing as a starting point In Writing First with Readings Practice in Context designed for the paragraph to essay course Kirsznner and Mandell take seriously the ideas and expressive abilities of developmental students as well as their need to learn the rules of writing and grammar Visual writing prompts that open every chapter get students writing immediately By moving frequently between their own writing writing models and instruction and workbook style mastery exercises students get constant reinforcement of the skills they are learning Thoughtful chapters on college success research and critical reading along with high interest essays round out the text making it the perfect introduction to college writing Read the preface     **How to Write an Essay Gr. 5-8** Brenda Rollins, 2009-09-01 Take the fear out of writing essays and empower your students by giving them the tools to comprehensively express their point of view Our resource breaks down the writing process while exploring the four different kinds of essays Start off by learning what is an essay before using graphic organizers to help during the prewriting process Continue this understanding with drafting by completing an informal outline Then go into great detail when describing something with descriptive essays Learn how to tell a story with narrative essays Explain a difficult subject more easily with informative or expository essays Find out how to change someone's mind with persuasive essays Finish up the unit with revising proofreading and editing practice Aligned to your State Standards and written to Bloom's Taxonomy reproducible writing tasks crossword word search comprehension quiz and answer key are also included     Patterns for College Writing Laurie G. Kirsznner, Stephen R. Mandell, 2011-12-22 C 1 Student's Ed Gift 12 6 13     **Almond Books ICSE English Compositions Textbook for Class 9 & 10** Almond Books, 2022-10-14 For the first time in ICSE this textbook covers all elements of composition writing in ICSE Class 9 and 10 In this book students are introduced to five different types of essays covered in the ICSE curriculum allowing them to develop an understanding of each in depth and practice with topic ideas

that are new and trending This ICSE compositions book gives students a deeper understanding of different writing styles how to plan compositions and shows how to master the art of writing a composition on any topic in ICSE English exam

**Recent Developments in Technology-Enhanced and Computer-Assisted Language Learning** Zou, Bin,Thomas, Michael,2019-12-06 The pace at which technology changes has created unique challenges in the integration of such technologies into language teaching and learning Innovative pedagogies and strategies must be developed that adapt to these changes and accommodate future technological changes Recent Developments in Technology Enhanced and Computer Assisted Language Learning is an essential research publication that focuses on technological influences on language education and applications of technology in language learning courses including foreign and second language learning Featuring an array of topics such as artificial intelligence teacher preparation and distance learning this book is ideal for teachers language instructors IT specialists instructional designers curriculum developers researchers education professionals academicians administrators practitioners and students

**The Nonfiction Now Lesson Bank, Grades 4-8** Nancy Akhavan,2014-02-04 What exactly makes The Nonfiction NOW Lesson Bank such a stand out If you consider the amount of instructional support that alone is substantial enough to transform your teaching But Nancy Akhavan happens to be an educator who has performed many roles over her career so she divests in this book just about everything in her professional vault A whole new vision of teaching nonfiction 50 powerhouse lessons A bank of short informational texts Dozens of student practice activities Graphic organizers for taming textbooks Unlike so many books this one will live its life in actual use dog eared sticky noted and loved [The Dolphin Writer - Crafting Essays](#) ,2008 TheHoughton Mifflin College Writing Seriesis a three volume series focusing on writing from sentences to paragraphs to essays in an easy to understand format and at an affordable price Each volume of theCollege Writing Seriespresents students with comprehensive yet approachable coverage of the writing process from prewriting through peer evaluation revision and preparation of the final paper and each also includes a section of numerous level appropriate readings A focus on student success in all areas of reading writing and studying helps students organize manage and implement techniques including how to use a computer to assist in the writing process Book Three includes complete coverage of essay skills TheHoughton Mifflin College Writing Seriesfeatures the same topics and content as other comparable textbooks but for a third of the price Step by step explanations of the writing process including many student models give students a clear understanding of how good writing actually works The text features a multitude of practice exercises including self tests that help students hone their writing skills Suggested answers appear in the back of the book Web Workboxes at the end of each chapter provide suggestions for Web sites with additional help exercises or suggestions for further exploration Chapter pedagogy including goals for each chapter and a chapter review self test supports students in anticipating learning and reviewing key concepts Book Three includesFocus on Researchboxes to help students begin to think about how to find sources of information how to keep track

of their information and ultimately how to appropriately incorporate sources into their own writing     The Writer's World Lynne Gaetz, Suneeti Phadke, 2005-12 The Writer's World addresses the diverse needs of students by meeting the needs of nonnative English speakers visual learners and students with varying skill levels Now The Writer's World addresses the diverse needs of instructors Prentice Hall is proud to offer The Writer's World Paragraphs and Essays in four individual volumes Developed to provide maximum flexibility for both instructors and students the volumes were created directly from the pages of The Writer's World Paragraphs and Essays by Lynne Gaetz and Suneeti Phadke Volume two The Writer's World Paragraph Patterns and the Essay gives students a solid overview of the patterns of development It also covers the parts of the essay and explains how students can apply the nine patterns of development to essay writing Volume two may be used as a stand alone item or in conjunction with any of the other volumes     **The College Writer's Handbook** Vandermeij, Randall VanderMey, 2003-04-24 The College Writer is a rhetoric reader research guide and handbook that offers streamlined nuts and bolts writing instruction preface p iii     *Discovery, an Inductive Approach to College Writing* Bonnie Klomp Stevens, 1983     *The Brief English Handbook* Edward A. Dornan, Charles W. Dawe, 1987 Completely updated and featuring a new section on study skills The Brief English Handbook offers the convenience and coverage of other handbooks at half the cost Known for its straightforward advice accessible writing style and clear organization this easy to use handbook emphasizes critical thinking and features complete coverage of composition basics Spiral bound and affordably priced The Brief English Handbook despite its streamlined size gives thorough attention to grammar mechanics punctuation critical thinking research and the writing process Numerous examples and samples provide models of writing including excellent coverage of workplace writing Will help anyone write better Grammar mechanics punctuation critical thinking research and the writing process Any one interested in a grammar and research reference     The Prentice Hall Reader George Miller, 2001     **The Prentice Hall Reader** , 1997     *Writer's Choice* GLENCOE, Jacqueline Jones Royster, 1996 An elementary level language arts textbook which develops good writing skills through exercises in reading writing and grammar     **The Reading Context** Dorothy U. Seyler, 2000 The Reading Context shows students how reading is a three step process through a clear and easy to remember prepare read respond strategy The book starts where developmental students need to start with an explanation of the context created by author work and reader It also stresses the importance of thinking about who the writer is what the author's purpose is what kind of work students are about to read and what they expect to gain from it Selections have been chosen to hold student interest while representing the kinds of material they will meet in their college assignments textbook material from geology to psychology from advertising to history from health to economics Chapters are filled with short pieces for illustration and practice and conclude with two or three longer selections In each chapter clear explanations of strategies to improve reading are supported by many exercises The text's eleven chapters form three sections Chapters 1-4 comprise the nuts and bolts strategies for reading and introduce the idea of the

reading context and active reading In chapters 5-8 students examine an author's use of writing strategies as aids to comprehension and develop their own writing to learn strategies Chapters 9-11 provide students with opportunities to read more widely to study expressive and persuasive writing and explore a variety of works all designed to improve critical thinking skills

**TOEFL CBT** Marilyn J. Rymniak, Janet Shanks, 2000 Combines a complete computer based practice test experience with a comprehensive review of all the tested material plus strategies to help you increase your score The Macmillan Reader Judith Nadell, 1999

**The Confident Writer** Carol C. Kanar, 2006 *Four in One* Edward A. Dornan, Robert Dees, 2001-08 This rhetoric reader research paper guide and brief handbook is the first writing text to fully explain the how's and why's of critical thinking This discussion of critical thinking is integrated into the chapters on the writing process and the patterns of organization Through this unique approach students learn how to use reflective and critical thinking in writing and reading The book is designed for maximum flexibility each part of the book is self contained The readings section of the book is organized alphabetically so instructors are not locked into just one approach The text also features an ESL section in its handbook a unique chapter on using the Internet for research and individual and collaborative exercises throughout

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