

### **1. Definition**

The **descriptive essay** is a genre of **essay** that asks the student to describe something—object, person, place, experience, emotion, situation, etc. This genre encourages the student's ability to create a written account of a particular experience. What is more, this genre allows for a great deal of artistic freedom (the goal of which is to paint an image that is vivid and moving in the mind of the reader).

A **descriptive essay**, as the name implies, is a form of **essay** that describes something. The students use sensory information to enable readers to use their five senses of touch, taste, smell, hearing, and sight to understand the topic of the **essay**.

### **2. What are the two types of descriptive essays ?**

There are 2 kinds of descriptive essays. The first type deals with persons and the second one is about objects. When you describe a **person**, you should add the physical features and details that appeals readers emotionally and physically. The other type is describing physical objects.

### **3. How do you start a descriptive essay ?**

1. Choose a specific topic. ...
2. Compile information. ...
3. Make an outline. ...
4. Write the introductory paragraph. ...
5. Write body paragraphs. ...
6. Summarize the essay in the concluding paragraph. ...

### **4. Elements of Descriptive Writing**

Good descriptive writing is comprised of five elements of descriptive writing : sensory details, figurative language, dominant impression, precise language, and careful organization.

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. **Descriptive writing** may also paint pictures of the feelings the person, place or thing invokes in the **writer**.

Here are some guidelines for writing a descriptive essay :

- **Take time to brainstorm**

If your instructor asks you to describe your favorite food, make sure that you jot down some ideas before you begin describing it. For instance, if you choose pizza, you might start by writing down a few words: sauce, cheese, crust, pepperoni, sausage, spices, hot, melted, etc. Once you have written down some words, you can begin by compiling descriptive lists for each one.

- **Use clear and concise language**

This means that words are chosen carefully, particularly for their relevancy in relation to that which you are intending to describe.

- **Choose vivid language**

Why use *horse* when you can choose *stallion*? Why not use *tempestuous* instead of *violent*? Or why not *miserly* in place of *cheap*? Such choices form a firmer image in the mind of the reader and often times offer nuanced meanings that serve better one's purpose.

- **Use your senses**

Remember, if you are describing something, you need to be appealing to the senses of the reader. Explain how the thing smelled, felt, sounded, tasted, or looked. Embellish the moment with senses.

- **Leave the reader with a clear impression.**

One of your goals is to evoke a strong sense of familiarity and appreciation in the reader. If your reader can walk away from the essay craving the very pizza you just described, you are on your way to writing effective descriptive essays.

- **Be organized**

It is easy to fall into an incoherent rambling of emotions and senses when writing a descriptive essay. However, you must strive to present an organized and logical description if the reader is to come away from the essay with a cogent sense of what it is you are attempting to describe.

##### 5. **The components of a descriptive essay format**

Just like any other assignment, descriptive essays have specific elements students should never ignore. Specifically, all descriptive essays need to include:

- a- **Introduction.** That is where the author briefly introduces the subject or the object of the essay. Introduction has to be written in an engaging manner to draw readers' attention and convince them read further rather than switch to something else.
- b- **Main Body.** The subject or object of descriptive essay is further explored and explained in detail in the body of the essay. The author can describe every particular aspect of the subject/object depending on what he/she considers important. Usually, writers use a great variety of adjectives and adverbs to make the paper colorful, lively, and interesting to read. Also, in this section the author can provide specific examples to enhance the description of the subject/object and make it easier to understand for the audience. This part of the essay provides readers with the insight into what the authors thinks about the particular topic.
- c- **Conclusion.** It is the last but not least important component of a descriptive essay. In this part, the author provides his own thoughts and conclusion of the subject or object of the essay, which depends greatly on author's writing style, imagination, and analytical skills.

Making sure that descriptive essay includes all three components of descriptive essay format helps in producing an effective essay. There should be no difficulties writing the essay if all necessary information is presented effectively. Also, the author can check for the omitted points in the outline and add some artistic language to make the essay more interesting.

### 5- Summary

To make the process of writing a descriptive essay easier, you should remember some basic and very efficient steps to follow:

- 1. Select specific subject/object for your essay :** For writing a good description, you can use observation as the dominant strategy. For instance, if you need to describe a place, you can go there and write about what you actually see or hear. You need to draw a clear picture of that place in the minds of your readers. For this, you can try using appealing adjectives and other descriptive devices.
- 2. Pay attention to the selection of dominant details that would support your impression and help you pass it on to your readers.**
- 3. Organize details carefully :** In a descriptive essay, you need to structure paragraphs chronologically, or provide smooth transition from general to specific. You can also use the examples to make the narration of your descriptive essay more real.
- 4. Use descriptive words that would eliminate ambiguity.** Avoid general descriptive adjectives like good, bad, awful, or beautiful. Make use of senses and sensory details to describe what the subject of your essay looks, smells, tastes, or sounds.

**5. Make a clear conclusion.** Although conclusion has to be clear and well-structured, you still should use descriptive and appealing words to make sound more convincing.

**6. Use relevant language.** Although you need to use adjectives and other descriptive devices extensively, you should be careful about choosing relevant words and phrases to describe the subject/object of the essay.

**7. Organize the information appropriately.** When writing descriptions, authors are often tempted to mix emotions and feelings and make their essays incoherent and overloaded with all kinds of words. Thus, try to provide details in a logical manner so that readers could have a clear understanding of your subject and feeling about it.

If the reader cannot stop but read your essay further until the end, we can only congratulate you on a job well done.