

CWE- L2 (S4)

Dr. KAID SLIMANE. H

Descriptive Essays

1- Definition

A descriptive essay gives a vivid, detailed description of something, generally a place or object, but possibly something more abstract like an emotion. Descriptive essays test your ability to use language in an original and creative way, to convey to the reader a memorable image of whatever you are describing.

2- Descriptive essay topics

When you are assigned a descriptive essay, you will normally be given a specific prompt or choice of prompts. They will often ask you to describe something from your own experience.

a- Personal Descriptive Essay : Describe a place you love to spend time in.

Describe an object that has sentimental value for you.

You might also be asked to describe something outside your own experience, in which case you will have to use your imagination.

b- Imaginative Descriptive Essay : Describe what it might be like to live on another planet. Sometimes you will be asked to describe something more abstract, like an emotion.

c- Conceptual Descriptive Essay : Describe the feeling of fear.

If you are not given a specific prompt (instruction), try to think of something you feel confident describing in detail. Think of objects and places you know well, that provoke specific feelings or sensations, and that you can describe in an interesting way.

3- Tips for Writing Descriptively

The key to writing an effective descriptive essay is to find ways of bringing your subject to life for the reader. Make use of figurative language, sensory details, and strong word choices to create a memorable description.

Use figurative language : Figurative language consists of devices like metaphor and simile that use words in non-literal ways to create a memorable effect.

Use your senses : Another key aspect of descriptive writing is the use of sensory details. This means referring not only to what something looks like, but also to smell, sound, touch, and taste.

Choose the right words : Writing descriptively involves choosing your words carefully. The use of effective adjectives is important, but so is your choice of adverbs, verbs, and even nouns.