English 8 – Descriptive Paragraph Template

**Descriptive Paragraphs**

* These paragraphs describe a person, place, or thing.
* These topics are usually divided into sections of main sensory elements – or appeals - that help the topic stand out as something vivid or memorable.
* For this template, we will use THREE sensory appeals, but you can add, remove, or change focus for the descriptive elements to suit your needs.

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Topic Sentence** – ONE sentence to show to your reader your paragraph topic and reveal a little about what you intend to write about it.

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**Body Section 1** – Introduce your first appeal. Describe appearance or visual details of your topic. Try to do this in TWO - THREE sentences, being as specific as you can.

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**Body Section 2** – Transition to your second appeal. Describe any sounds or audio details associated with your topic. Try to do this in TWO - THREE sentences, being as specific as you can.

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**Body Section 3** - Transition to your third appeal. Describe any physical feelings or sensations associated with your topic. Try to do this in TWO - THREE sentences, being as specific as you can.

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This template didn’t focus on appeals to smell or taste, but those could work as well, depending on your topic.

**Concluding Sentence** – In ONE or TWO sentences, try to comment on the significance of your topic as the subject for your descriptive paragraph. For reasons good, bad, or neutral, why is it a vivid memory?

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**Assessment Checklist:**

This paragraph has the following:

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| * **Topic Sentence** clearly reveals the topic to be discussed * The writing clearly **reflects** the **purpose** of the type of paragraph attempted * Body Sentences in sequential, **logical order** * **Reasons** in the body section are effective and **well explained** * **Appropriate transitions** between body sentences | * **Concluding sentence** provides a thoughtful final word on the subject * Attempts at vivid, effective, and sophisticated **vocabulary**. * Figurative elements like **similes** or **metaphors** used to enhance description * Tone is **formal, or suited to the voice of the narrator** (if you aren’t writing as yourself) * Proper spelling, punctuation, and capitalization * The paragraph is approximately 8-11 sentences long. |