

Write a Descriptive Paragraph

A **DESCRIPTIVE PARAGRAPH** is a group of sentences describing a person, place or thing.

Before You Write

Read the following paragraph. What is the TOPIC of this paragraph?

We stopped our bikes and stared at the forest below in all its October splendor. Blankets of orange, yellow and red draped the trees as far as our eyes could see. Bold patches of green could be seen where the evergreens grew. When the wind came up, the whole landscape waved like a brightly colored quilt being tossed on a newly made bed. As we mounted our bikes to continue our ride, we felt how fortunate we were to have observed this wonderful creation.

Topic _____

Characteristics of The Descriptive Paragraph

1. It must have a "one thing only" topic - the person, place or thing being described.
2. The opening sentence usually tells what is being described in a way that invites your readers to read on. If it doesn't, another sentence must tell.
3. Each developmental sentence should add descriptive details about the topic.
4. Descriptive words are used freely - adjectives, adverbs, strong verbs and specific nouns.
5. The closing sentence should not add details; it sums up the whole word picture.

Compose a descriptive paragraph using one of the topics below.

- The Thunder Storm
- My Favorite Relative
- The Secret Tree Fort
- Your own topic

Revise, Edit, Proofread

Alone or with a partner, edit your first draft. Use the questions below as your guide.

EDITING CHECKLIST

- Did I write a good opening sentence that tells the topic of the descriptive paragraph?
- Do all of my developmental sentences provide more description about the topic?
- Did I write a good closing sentence?
- Are all of my sentences about the topic?

Alone or with a partner, proofread your draft using the questions below.

PROOFREADING CHECKLIST

- Does each sentence make sense?
- Have I used capital letters correctly?
- Have I punctuated each sentence properly?
- Did I spell words correctly, checking those I was unsure about?

Publish and Reflect

Write your final draft in your best handwriting. In groups of three, take turns reading your descriptive paragraphs. Discuss the strengths of each paragraph using the checklists above. Later your teacher will evaluate your paragraph.