

# Descriptive Writing



**In a descriptive paragraph,**

**Begin with an *idea*.**

**(You can write about what a person, object, place and so on)**

***Think* about that idea.**

***Think in specific words and phrases* as you write, using descriptive words.**

***Ask yourself questions* about your idea, relating to the five senses.**

**What does it *look* like?**

**What does it *sound* like?**

**What does it *smell* like?**

**What does it *taste* like?**

**What does it *feel* like?**

**✓ Examples:**

**✓1/ a paragraph describing what an alligator or a bat looks like.**

**✓2/ a paragraph about an special person in your life.**

**✓3/ a paragraph about a place that is worth seeing**

## After you brainstorm, focus and organize....

- Write a topic sentence.

(What is the main idea you want to write about?)

- List in order details relating to your topic sentence.
- Write an organized and supported descriptive paragraph.
- Revise and edit your paragraph.
- Use Simple Present Tense (You can use Simple Past tense if you are describing a person in your past.)

# Basic Paragraph Structure

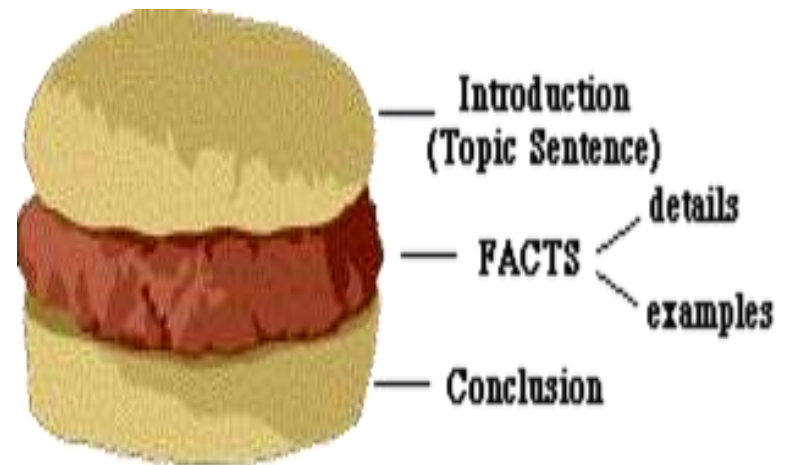


- **Topic Sentence (Main Idea)**

- Major Supporting Detail
  - Minor supporting detail
- Major Supporting Detail
  - Minor supporting detail
- Major Supporting Detail
  - Minor supporting detail

- **Closing Sentence**

(Restate Main Idea or Make a Prediction)



# Sample Descriptive Paragraph

My brother Michael's bedroom shows his big interest in fantasy and science fiction. **Glow-in-the-dark** stars are **pasted** on the ceiling where, at night, they **glow** in the dark. Other stars can be seen covering the ceiling during the day, giving the appearance of a **starry** sky. **Movie** posters **line** the walls. There is a poster of *The Matrix* in a shiny frame. Below the posters are **two black steel** bookcases **crowded** with **old** books. **Old** videos like *Raiders of the Lost Ark* and *Alien* are also **stacked** on the bookshelves. Anyone entering my brother's room knows at once that Michael likes to escape to fantastic places.



# Structure of Sample Descriptive Paragraph

(TS) My brother Michael's bedroom shows his big interest in fantasy and science fiction.

(MSD) Glow-in-the-dark stars are pasted on the ceiling where, at night, they glow in the dark.

(msd) Other stars can be seen covering the ceiling during the day, giving the appearance of a starry sky.

(MSD) Movie posters line the walls.

(msd) There is a poster of *The Matrix* in a shiny chrome frame.

(MSD) Below the posters are two black steel bookcases crammed with old books.

(msd) Old videos like *Raiders of the Lost Ark* and *Alien* are also stacked on the bookshelves.

(CS) Anyone entering my brother's room knows at once that Michael likes to escape to fantastic places.

\*TS=Topic Sentence,

MSD=Major Supporting Details, msd=minor supporting details,

CS=Closing Sentence

# Describing People:

Adjectives to describe yourself, your family, another student, your teacher.



Height	Build	Age
tall, short, medium height	, slim, thin, overweight, fat, skinny,	young, elderly, middle-aged, teenager, in 20s, 30s

Face	Eyes	Hair Type/Color
round, oval, square, with scars, wrinkles, sun-tanned, pale	big round blue eyes, large, small, bright, narrow	bald, straight, curly, spiky, wavy, short, long dyed, blonde hair, red hair, black hair

**Clothes:** casual, formal, neat, messy



**John is a tall, slim man in his mid forties. He has a thin face, blue eyes and a large nose. His short hair is turning white. He is usually casually dressed. He is a smart man, but he is very messy. He doesn't keep his office tidy.**

## CLASS ACTIVITY

### Type of complexion



He is Asian.  
He has light-brown skin.



She is black.  
She has dark skin.



She is white. She has very pale skin.



She is white.  
She has slightly tanned skin.

### Type of hair



She has long, *straight*, black hair.



She has short, *straight*, black hair.



She has medium length,  
*straight*, blonde hair.



She has short, *curly*, blonde hair.



She has medium length, *wavy*, red hair.



He has no hair. (Bald)



## Describing Character - What is he like? Is he nice???

careful, hard-working, worried, cheerful, active, curious,	generous, aggressive, careless, sensible, independent	creative boring, imaginative sensitive, gentle, loyal,	trusting, friendly stubborn, patient moody, optimistic,	energetic, confident, selfish, shy,
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### Examples:

1/Our new teacher is so patient. If we don't understand something, she goes over it again and again until we do.

2/Our English teacher at school is so creative. He is always coming up with new games that help make learning fun.

3/Tim is so generous. He always helps out the poor people in our community.

**APPEARANCE**

**Medium-Height  
Skinny  
Brown Eyes**



**CHARACTER**

**Reserved  
Hard-Working  
Patient  
Mild**

**PERSON  
(JUDY)**

**WHAT  
HE/SHE DOES?**

**a student  
part-time cashier  
math tutor**

**HOBBIES**

**Listening to  
pop music  
Reading novels  
Sewing  
Painting**

## *My grandmother*

My grandmother was a very lovely woman. Her warm, loving smile always brightened my day. She was a thin, elderly woman in her 80s. She had wavy hair and big round blue eyes. Everything about her was tidy and comforting. When I was younger, I learned a lot from this energetic and inspiring woman.

