

Descriptive Writing

An excellent description. . .

- ✓ focuses on a single person, place, event, or object
- ✓ uses sensory details that appeal to the five senses (sight, hearing, touch, taste, and smell)
- ✓ “shows” rather than “tells” by including specific details, such as characters’ gestures and reactions
- ✓ chooses precise words, such as vivid verbs and specific nouns
- ✓ organizes details about places or things in spatial order
- ✓ uses transitions to clarify spatial order, such as *in the distance*, *to the right*, *alongside*, and *near*

An average description. . .

- ✓ focuses mainly on one specific person, place, event, or object but occasionally wanders off topic
- ✓ uses sensory details that could be more vivid or that only appeal to one of the five senses
- ✓ includes some specific details or actions
- ✓ includes vague verbs and nouns
- ✓ organizes most details about places or things in spatial order, but uses few transitions

A poor description. . .

- ✓ has no clear focus
- ✓ provides few or no sensory details
- ✓ lacks specific details or actions
- ✓ includes mostly vague words
- ✓ avoids spatial or chronological order
- ✓ has few or no transitions