

Five Features of Descriptive Writing

- Ideas and Content: Clarity of Controlling Idea and Topic
- Organization: Development of Ideas
- Audience Awareness: Appropriate for Audience
- Language: Sentence Structure, Vocabulary, Sensory Details
- Conventions: Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation

4 • ADVANCED

- Writing is focused on a clear **topic**; **controlling idea** is written in a clear and engaging way.
- Essay follows a clear **organizational** structure with a beginning, middle and end.
- Ideas and context are clearly presented to a specific **audience**; descriptions and information anticipate reader's prior knowledge, interests and questions.
- **Language** is lively and precise and paints a vivid picture with sensory details through a variety of sentence structures.
- Writing shows clear control of writing **conventions** though there may be a few errors that are "first-draft" in nature. Errors do not interfere with meaning.

3 • PROFICIENT

- Writing is focused on a **topic**; **controlling idea** is clear.
- Essay mostly follows an **organizational** structure with a beginning, middle and end.
- Ideas and context are presented to a specific **audience**; descriptions and information mostly anticipate reader's prior knowledge, interests and questions.
- **Language** is lively and clear and paints a picture with sensory details through a variety of sentence structures.
- Writing shows some control of writing **conventions**. Errors do not interfere with meaning.

2 • DEVELOPING

- Writing may have a general **topic**; **the controlling idea** may be vague.
- Essay has some **organizational** structure without clear beginning, middle and end.
- Writing is not aimed at a particular **audience**, nor does it anticipate reader's prior knowledge, interests and questions.
- **Language** is simple with limited use of sensory details. Sentence types are repetitive.
- Writing has limited control of **conventions**. Errors may interfere with meaning.

1 • EMERGING

- **Topic** is not clear; **controlling idea** is missing or difficult to identify.
- Essay lacks **organizational** structure.
- Writing does not address any particular **audience**.
- **Language** is general and vague. There are incomplete or run-on sentences.
- Serious errors in **conventions** interfere with meaning.

OT = Off topic

NR = No response