DEFINITION OF DESCRIPTIVE WRITING

DESCRIPTIVE WRITING is the clear description of people, places, objects, or events using appropriate details. An effective description will contain sufficient and varied elaboration of details to communicate a sense of the subject being described. Details used are usually sensory and selected to describe what the writer sees, hears, smells, touches, and tastes.

DESCRIPTIVE PROMPT

Think about a place where you go to have a good time. It might be a fair, a carnival, or a friend’s home. Describe this place. You may want to describe how it looks, sounds and smells, as well as how you feel when you are there.
DESCRIPTIVE MODE  LEVEL I – Does not meet standard

1. Paper #5976299

This brief response presents limited information about the assigned topic, indicating little understanding of the writing task. The writer attempts to provide some description about the friend’s house, but the descriptors are vague and general (feel happy, smells like flowers, sounds like music). The writing shows little evidence of an organizational plan, with no purposeful ordering of ideas, and little sense of audience. The writing needs more topic development to receive a higher score.

2. Paper #5909631

Many obvious errors in sentence formation and mechanics impede communication in this Level I response. It displays little evidence of an organizational plan as the writer moves quickly from one idea to the next (smells like popcorn and cotton candy, looks like a big fun house). The response shows little understanding of the writing task with very limited description in vague, general terms (fun, lots of kids and games).

3. Paper #5908573

This primarily narrative response gives little attention to developing the descriptive topic. The writer provides a few of the narrator’s feelings associated with going to a carnival (glad, very excited). These overly general descriptors, along with seemingly irrelevant information about eating at Wendy’s, indicate little sense of audience and purpose. The writer groups related information together, which does display some organization. However, some repetition weakens overall coherence. This response displays little understanding of the descriptive writing task.

4. Paper #5918417

No clear controlling idea emerges in this Level I response about going to the fair, an aunt’s house, the park, and back home. The rambling narrative provides a few random general descriptors (enjoyed it, had fun), but repetition limits their effectiveness. Many obvious errors in mechanics, grammar and usage, and sentence formation interrupt the flow of communication. Despite some attempt to organize through weak sequencing, the response exhibits little understanding of the assigned topic.
When I feel sad I go to my friend's house for advice. When I go there it makes me feel happy and it makes me feel like I have great friends. It smells like flowers and when I go into her room it sounds like music that is greater than anything else I have ever heard. Her house is huge, it has pretty designs and a perfect choice of paint. I really feel better when I go to her house.
I want to a fair. It smells like popcorn and cotton candy. It looks like a big fun house. It has a lot of kids and games. All the people are having fun. I went with my Aunt and with my brother and my cousin and some friends. And we all had fun.
Well today I'm going to the carnival with my friends. We're also going to eat. Then after that we are going to the carnival like I said at first. This is a very tremendous day. I had said to myself, "Well, I thought to myself, "I'm glad I'm doing this to day cause, I'll get to spend time with my friends."

"Hey!" began to say, "I'm ready to go to Wendy's and get something to eat." I said anxiously. So as we left, we got in the car and just drove till we got there. "Oh!" I said, "What do you want?" she said. "I said that I just wanted a cheeseburger with french fries." She said "Mmmkay!"

Well then after we were done eating, we headed to the carnival! "That was good!" I said. "Yes indeed!" as I said fully. "Well, we are at the carnival," said, "Yep!" I said very excited. As we got are ticket, we walked in. I said, "What are we gonna do first?" I asked. "I don't know," she said with a smile!" Then suddenly come out of nowhere I felt someone shaking me, "Wake up, wake up!" said "Finish eating. It's almost time to go to the carnival!"

The End
Think about a place where you can go.

Mom, dad, and I are in my bedroom. Mom came to wake me up and I got up. She said, "Go to the park." I thought I didn't want to go. I had fun, but we had to drive.

I didn't have fun. I just got in the car, then we went to my aunt. I got to stay the night. The next day I went to the park. I really had fun there. I had to go the next day.

I was sad to go. I had fun to stay the night but the next time I go again. Some other day to stay. But when I go home, she packed us less have a party. Yesterday was my greatest day ever. That is my go story.
1. Paper #5976320

This response demonstrates some understanding of the assigned task with a minimally developed description of the fair. The writer begins to extend some ideas (the lights are so bright and beautiful; all the children screaming and laughing and talking), but the description remains general. The response displays some sense of audience and purpose in word choice. However, the use of only basic-functional vocabulary (rides make so many noises it’s so fun) limits the effectiveness of such description. The response needs more precise, meaningful vocabulary and sufficient development for a higher score.

2. Paper #5933548

This primarily narrative response has some evidence of an organizational plan in sequencing what happens on a visit to a friend’s house. Embedded in this story are some general descriptors (beautiful room, fantastic living room, large waves), but the description remains fairly thin due to the basic-functional vocabulary. Loosely related information about watching television and hearing the mother type detract from the descriptive purpose and indicate more author involvement than author control. This response shows only some understanding of the descriptive writing task.

3. Paper #5965877

This Level II response displays some evidence of an organizational plan as the writer describes the great outdoors in sensory clusters. However, within the list-like clusters there is little attention given to the flow of ideas (it smells like the outdoors; it smells horrible sometimes). The writer develops the topic minimally with basic-functional vocabulary. Some ideas remain unclear without further clarification (I act as wild as a timber wolf). This response indicates some understanding of the writing task.

4. Paper #5951406

This primarily expository response establishes a clear five-paragraph-theme plan at the outset and follows it. Descriptive details explaining why a fair is the favorite place convey some understanding of the assigned task. However, the list-like support (cotton candy, caramel apples, popcorn) and overly general details (tall things flashing, all different colors) limit elaboration, and the response remains minimally developed. More specific development is needed to achieve a higher score.
The writer shows some understanding of the descriptive task with a focus on the feelings, smells, and sounds of a friend’s house. These clusters of related information provide an organizational plan, although transitions are somewhat mechanical. Employing basic-functional vocabulary, this wordy response minimally extends each sensory cue with general support (I also like to think I am at home because my mom’s best friend lives there and I do not want to get in any trouble if I do something bad). Though conveying a sincere tone, the response needs more meaningful, precise vocabulary with sufficient development to move into the Level III range.
My best place and where I have a good time is the fair because I had a good time there. The sight was so beautiful and the smell smells so good and last the sounds made me feel eager. Everything sounds so perfect and fun to me.

The fair is my best place because the sights they are beautiful. Because the lights are so bright and magnificent. There are also so many people it's so full. All the rides make me eager to ride them and the games you play will have a prize.

The fair is also my best place because of the sounds. All the children screaming and laughing and talking. The people yelling to get people to buy these things. Rides make so many noises it's so fun. It makes me want to ride them. I just can't wait until they put the next fair up. I'm definitely there with my friends.
Oh, I’m so excited! It is my first time going to my friend’s house. I bet her house is going to be terrific with all the sights, sounds, and smells.

I was at _____ house and she was going to show me her room, and it was beautiful. We started to have fun and play, but then she took me in the living room to ask if we could get her camera and I said, “Your living room looks fantastic.”

“Thank you!” We went back to her room and I didn’t notice her fabulous bed. The color of the bed was lime green and baby blue. It was the most prettiest thing I have ever seen.

While we were playing, she said, “shhh,” she thought she had heard something. But it was her mom typing on the computer. We layed down for like 30 minutes and watched t.v. Then we started to talk to each other. She asked me if I wanted to go to the very cool looking pool, and I said, “Yes.”

We got out to the pool and started to swim and _____ was making large waves. I thought I was on the largest ship I have ever seen. We dried off and went back to her awesome bedroom. The cat had just taken a bath and he smelled delicious. Bedroom smells like vanilla sugar. I feel...
I have had a really great awesome time at ______ house. Have you ever had a great time at a friend's house before? It has been cool here with all the sights, sounds and smells.
Do you have a place, that you like to go to and have fun? I do, mine is the great outdoors A.K.A the woods. The woods that I go to are beautiful and organized just for me. The woods are fun, and fantastic. I am going to describe how I act, how it looks, and how it smells.

How I act is strange, I act as wild as a timber wolf, I act how I want in the woods. One time I acted like a cheetah and ran very fast because I was being chased by a coyote. I sometimes relax up against glimmering trees.

How it looks. It looks like no other place. It has a huge selection of wildlife. It has glimmering trees. It has a beautiful scenery.

How it smells. It smells like the outdoors. It smells horrible sometimes. It stinks sometimes. Smells refreshing and how the great outdoors are suppose to smell.

In conclusion I have described to you how the great outdoors smell, looks, and how I act when I'm there. I love the great outdoors. The great outdoors a totally out of this world.
Do you have a favorite place to go to have a good time. Well if you don't, I do. It's the fair. In this story I will tell you why the fair is my favorite place to go to have a good time. I will also tell you how it looks, smells, sounds, and how I feel when I am there.

First, the fair is my favorite place to go to have a good time because how it smells. It smells like cotton candy, caramel apples, and popcorn. It also smells like hot dogs with all different kinds of sodas. Sometimes it smells like chicken. Now that's one reason why the fair is my favorite place to go to.

Next reason why the fair is my favorite place to go to is because how it looks. When you first walk in you see tall things flashing all different colors of light around you. The sky lights up with all different colors. You also see things spinning all around you in different directions.

And the last reason why the fair is my favorite place to go to have fun is how it sounds. You can hear cheering from little children and laughing all around you. Sometimes you hear screaming from the tall
and scary rides. You can also hear people talking to order food from an eating area. And that's another reason why I like the fair to be my favorite place to go.

In the last three paragraphs, I talked about how the fair looks, sounds, and smells. There are a lot of reasons why I like to go to the fair to have a good time. I hope I gave enough details to tell you why I like the fair. I also like the fair because how it makes me feel. Those are some reasons why I like the fair to be my favorite place to go.
A Friends House

The place that I like to
go the most is to my friends
house. My friends name is

At her house we have so much
fun. I like her house because it
makes me feel at home. It smells
like chocolate and vanilla there and
it sounds like a doggy day care center.

First, I like to go there because
her parents always tell me that I
can get what I want because at their
house I am at home. I also like
to think I am at home because
my moms best friend lives there
and I do not want to get in any
trouble if I do something bad.

Next, I like to go there because
it always smells like chocolate and
vanilla. It always smells like that
because they always have a
very good smelling candle burning.
They always get the same candles,
chocolate chip and vanilla ice, and every
time I go there it smells so good.

Last, I like going there because
I like dogs and they have two
dogs, and it sounds like they
have a doggy clay care at
their house I say that because their dogs bark so loud but its only true of them. I finally got my piece that I like to go the most is my friends house and it smells like chocolate and vanilla and it sounds like a dream. I think I am at home at that day. I hope I can go there again some day.
1. Paper #5924965

With a clear focus on the sensory experiences of a fair, the writer displays a good sense of author control in this sufficiently developed response. Precise, meaningful vocabulary (some of the hotdogs are delicious and as juicy as a box of juice; some are dry as dirt) enhances development. The organizational plan is satisfactory in its use of topic sentences to introduce each cluster of related details. Variation in sentence structure adds to the smooth presentation of ideas that flow with clarity and cohesion. The writing conveys author involvement in word choice (zoom, out of nowhere it started going) and in the closing remarks (When I die I want to be buried under the fairgrounds). With both author control and author involvement, this response demonstrates a good understanding of the writing task.

2. Paper #5923351

This sufficiently developed response is particularly effective in its use of spatial cues to strengthen elaboration and organization (two other lines beyond and behind the center line, marking the defensive and offensive territories). The ideas flow smoothly and clearly with a controlled progression of information that builds specific support. The writer employs varied sentence formations, precise and original vocabulary (a chill wind…which feels like daggers to the skin), and a good sense of audience to convey a specific picture of a lacrosse field.

3. Paper #5970704

The writer sufficiently develops the description of a library in this Level III response. Descriptive details are often specific (special occasions like Christmas and Easter; I counted 3,268 books), and word choice is meaningful (interesting words inside of the dusty, old books). Organization is satisfactory with a logical progression of ideas that flow smoothly from one to the next with clarity. Direct appeals to the reader (I love libraries, and you can’t deny it) display a good sense of audience. This response demonstrates a good understanding of the writing task.

4. Paper #5919282

This tightly controlled response displays a good understanding of the descriptive writing task. The writer provides a sense of excitement by comparing the skating rink to paradise by selecting specific sensory details (the cool soft breeze in your face; as calming as watching the sun set on the horizon). The adequate organization helps build sufficient development with appropriate and logical extensions of information. Interesting sentence formations enhance the smooth flow of ideas (no one is hurt, no one is sad, and no one is alone; all is right).
The Night At the Fair

There are three things I want to describe about the fair. One of them is the rides. Another is the food. The final one is the prizes you can win. Do you have a favorite place to go well I do and it is the fair.

First, I am going to describe the rides. The Colossal ride are the funnest. Smaller rides are good too. When you arrive at the fair and look at the rides you feel scared, but when you get on the ride you know it's going to be fun. Sometimes when you get on the smaller rides you think they are going to be boring, then out of nowhere it started going faster and faster.

The second thing I am going to describe is the food. Some of the hotdogs are delicious and as juicy as a box of juice. Some are as dry as dirt. The cheeseburgers are so tender and easy to chew. They are juicy too; just not as juicy as the hotdogs. Sometimes I get popcorn, but I usually don't because they don't put enough butter on it.

Let me describe the games now. They have arcade games and games.
They have my favorite game. It is Pac-Man. They have two Pac-Man people and if they touch you that means you're out.

Well, now you know why I like the fair. It's my favorite because of the rides, food, and games. I like to go to other places, but the fair is my favorite. When I die I want to be buried under fairgrounds. Boom, get an ambulance someone just fell off the roller-coaster!
I have a certain place that I like to go to have fun. I like to go there because you play an extremely great game. The place I like to go to is the lacrosse field. The lacrosse field is as vast as a football field.

It is defined by its engraving, a center line with an X in the center, where the ball is set at the play's beginning, when a faceoff starts; two other lines beyond and behind the center line, marking the defensive and offensive territories; and finally, a short line and circle, marking the goal position and crease.

The field is gated by short black gates and surrounded by a massive asphalt track. On one side of the track lies a great concrete stadium seat collection with concession and speaker's booth. On the other side are simple gym bleachers with concession at the side.

Enormous flood lights tower over the field that slowly come on and wash the field with a pale white light. There is always a chill wind at the arena, which feels like daggers to the skin. The sky is always black with stars coming on every 10 minutes.

Lacrosse is a great sport. It is why I have fun at the field. It is why I come to the field.
I like to go places, but there is one place I like to go that makes me feel good, even when I'm sad, scared, or mad. That place is the library. The library has so many books. All the books are dusty, and I feel like I'm in a sea of dust.

I don't just like the library because it has old, dusty books. I like it because of the interesting words in some of the dusty old books. And because it's so quiet. No one is in there when I go in.

I really don't like it when every one is in the library. That only happens on special occasions like Christmas and Easter. Sometimes I show it to my best friend. I think she loves it as much as I do.

I love books so much that one time it was Christmas. I counted all the books in the whole library. It took a long time, but I finally got finished. I counted 3,263 books! That is a lot of books. I can't even believe I even got finished.

Books can be really fun, but they can also be very dramatic. Libraries
can also be very fun too with all the books and bookmarks. Personally, I would say that libraries are the best places to go in the whole world. I would like to be a librarian when I grow up.

I love libraries and you can't deny it, and I'm not afraid to show it either. Since I love them I hope you do too!
My favorite place where I go to have fun is the skating rink. It has things that are great for all five senses. Hear the wonderful music, Rock, Pop, Hip Hop, R&B, and many more. The rhythm, melody, beat, and the lyrics all matter to me in more ways than one. You can feel the cool soft breeze in your face. The air blowing your hair when you feel hot. It’s as calming as watching the sun set on the horizon. I personally think seeing the flashing lights is the best. Yellow, Red, Blue, Green, and purple colored lights moving back and forth makes me feel like all is right with the world. No one is hurt, no one is sad, and no one is alone. All is right. The food at the food stand smells terrific. The pizza, hotdogs, corn dogs, and hamburgers one can eat. The aroma of the food fills my nose with happiness. The smell lifts me off of the floor into the line at the food stand, and the taste of the candy prizes is even better. Every time you win a contest you always receive an award, which is always candy. Sweet or sour I will eat either one as long as it is still candy. However, when it is time to leave I feel gloomy, but then I realize I can come back tomorrow. Being at the skating rink is paradise to me.
DESCRIPTIVE MODE

1. Paper #5971338

Carefully controlled and imaginative, this Level IV response about an Underground Suite for kids displays a thorough understanding of the writing task. The writer’s purposeful selection of words and phrases conveys inclusion of kids (it already leads to most kids’ houses) and exclusion of parents (PGS, the Parent Getaway Scheme). This strategy demonstrates a strong sense of audience and command of language. Ideas are thoroughly developed with precise and specific details (it took me a whole eight months to wire up the huge TV system). The writer successfully sustains a tone of irony and humor through natural-sounding vocabulary and varied syntax, which leaves the reader with a strong sense of overall completeness.

2. Paper #5911488

This response successfully addresses and controls the task of describing “Grandma’s house.” The writer develops a clearly sequenced series of sensory experiences, which exhibits a strong and creative organizational framework. The descriptive details embedded in the story are specific and vivid (there was no way anyone was going to drip chlorine water on her new freshly swept tile floors in the kitchen). In-depth elaboration is enhanced by varied word choice that evokes strong sensory appeal (sweet mashed potatoes melt in my mouth). The response in its closing focus on grandmother’s love leaves the reader with a strong sense of completeness.

3. Paper #5926516

The writer of this thoroughly developed response conveys a marked enthusiasm for describing a kitchen. Contributing to this strong sense of audience and purpose are colloquial language (bodacious; a slammin’ fruit smoothie) and purposeful sentence formations (pretty sweet, huh?). The organizational plan is strong, displaying good coherence and strong cohesions within each sensory focus (colors, designs, food). Although there are minor errors in mechanics, this response demonstrates a thorough understanding of the descriptive writing task.

4. Paper #5949000

Clear and coherent ideas flow very smoothly in this Level IV response about sitting in a tree. The writer thoroughly develops the sensations of this special place by coupling specific details with a good sense of the author’s feelings (some people are terrified of heights, and other people are afraid of falling. I am neither). Enhancing the strong sense of completeness is an appropriate use of subtle imagery (then I feel like I am in an art museum because all of the colors seem to be swirling around me, in time with the wind). This response demonstrates a thorough understanding of the assigned topic.
Do you like to have a good time? If so, come to the Underground Suite. It is a huge underground room that lies under my house. Of course, none of the parents know... yet. This roomy US suite took 3 entire months to build. We already have about 31 residents here. But, make sure you're older than 8 yrs. of age, or no admission.

If you accept, write to me telling your address so I can dig it. It already leads to most kids' houses. There are doors to each of these tunnels. This is so underaged kids can't get in. If they do, well... I won't talk about that now, let's talk about the stuff the US has.

Don't worry about being squished in; it is very roomy here. It holds a kitchen, a bathroom (actually about 50), 50 bedrooms and a huge game room. It took me a whole 8 months to wire up the huge TV system. It took up the entire front part of the suite. But, everyone does have their own personal TV.

Usually it smells like pizza in here. Trust me on this... it is always loud here. Luckily I made super-protective earmuffs, just in case you're doing homework. The room either has a lemon yellow color at day or a orangey orange color. I really never saw the color at night. (Where it sounds like all breaking stuff). The US has been running for up to 3 yrs now. It is still very young but is a great hangout spot. It's great for the PGS (Parent Getaway Scheme). All the kids here have done it. So, come to the U.S.; where you always have a good time.

P.S.: You will love this place, I do and everyone else does too.
BEEP! Grandma's famous roast beef was almost ready. She hollers to my relatives to dry off before they come eat. There was no way anyone was going to drip chlorine water on her new, freshly swept tile floors in the kitchen. Everyone wears their shoes inside because cold floor feels like ice!

I step to breathe in deeply next to the blooming garden. Beyond these bushes, a small corn field and blueberry patch overcome the aroma of a wet dog from the pool. As I step back inside, the sweet smell of chocolate pound cake greets me.

The large front porch welcomes all visitors. My grandmother often invites me to stay in one of the three extra bedrooms upstairs. I love to explore the 13 acres of land my grandparents live on with a cousin around my age.

I learned how to dive and do a front flip off the diving board into the 8-foot deep pool.

Mmm... how delicious is this homemade banana pudding? This is a dessert, along with key lime pie, that my family enjoys after my grandma's scrumptious meatballs.

Sweet mashed potatoes melt in my mouth. How I wish I could eat...
this amazing meal everyday!

My grandmother's house is a very lovable place. The food tastes delicious, the smells are inviting, and her house is enormous. But the most important thing is that there is a grandmother who lives there that loves me!
In the Kitchen

What's cooking? An area I enjoy would have to be the kitchen. Why? The kitchen is full of colors, designs, and scents of food. Who wouldn't LOVE those things?

First of all, the colors have so much beauty. Each and every color has their own unique food to go with. For example, outrageous orange has tangy mango, scarlet red goes with sweet and sour apples, and lemon drop yellow is a perfect match for bananas. Bright is also a way to describe all the colors of the kitchen. The chefs' choice in color isn't exactly like his taste in food.

Everything is GREEN! The smooth napkins, the rosy broccoli, even the pine scented candle is green! Even though the colors are grand, the designs are even better.

Secondly, the designs are so beautiful. Plus they're everywhere. So if you're down in the dumps (like the green garbage can) the designs perk you up a bit. By the stove there are little fires to stand for the flame of the stove. On the wall you can see tomatoes dancing as if they were hula girls. Sitting on the staff shirt there are little chef hats. Pretty sweet huh?
Lastly the food takes your taste
bites to heaven! Whether you're sippin' a
slammin' fruit smoothie or eatin' some
duck 'alaron you're garented to enjoy
what you're eatin'. This food is as delicous
as a chocolate river filled with mini
marvelous marshmallows! Mmm doesn't that
sound like a tasty treat?

Now you know why the
kitchen is a special place that I
can enjoy.Chef has as much taste as
a tasty taffy bar. I just wish he
wouldn't have soooooo much green.
I gotta order one of those green
uniforms that say I ♡ the kitchen
on the front. I love the kitchen more
than the world.
You must go to a lot of different places, but
is there one place that you enjoy the most? I do.
I enjoy going to my friend's houses, and going to
my piano lessons, but, my favorite is when I'm
sitting on a branch in the tree that's next to
my house.

Some people are terrified of heights, and either
people are afraid of falling, I am neither. I like
sitting really high in the tree. When it's Spring,
I like being surrounded by all of the new, green
leaves. Autumn, or Fall, is when all of the tree's
leaves turn red, orange, and brown. Then I feel like
I am in an art museum because all of the colors seem
to be swirling around me, in time with the wind.

I climb the tree when I am done with my home-
work, and in my spare time. I enjoy all of the fresh
air, and sometimes being so high off the ground
makes me feel like a bird. Sometimes I hear and see
birds, depending on what season it is. The birds all
clap and flap their wings.

I also enjoy reading in the tree. I carry one of
my books in a bag and swing it around a branch. All
of the fresh air, nature, and sunlight make me happy.
And to be able to read in the middle of all of it makes
being in the big tree even more enjoyable.

I think everyone should have a place that they
go to, to have a really good time. Being in all of the sun-
light, listening to all of the birds chirping, I think
wherever you are happy should be your favorite place.
here you go to enjoy yourself and have fun.