

Planning a Descriptive Writing Text

What Should I Do?



Follow the following steps as you begin working on your descriptive writing task. Each step is important, so don't leave any out!

1. Think of a person to write about.

Make a list of people who stand out in your memory. Jot down what is special or important about each. Highlight the one you want to write about.

2. Find a focus; then freewrite.

What is the main point you want to make about this person? Is he funny? Is she a great athlete? If your subject is a fictional character, think about how his or her qualities (such as ambition or laziness) affect the plot and the resolution of the conflict.

*Eg. smart and kind
stern and serious
terrific, creative teacher
loyal friend who really knows me
serious, in control all the time*

*doesn't smile when he says hello
sounds like a general or something
tells everybody what to do at the family picnic*

3. Gather information.

Make a list of what the person does and says. Be sure each detail in your lists helps to show the focus you decided on in step 2.

Eg : makes the rules, gives commands, sits up straight even when he's watching television

4. Think about sensory details.

What sounds, sights, and other details does this person bring to mind? List details that will paint a rich picture in your reader's mind.

sight: stands and sits straight, has wavy hair

touch: stiff shirts

sound: loud, clear voice that barks out orders