



**The English Language Center
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**DOWNLOADABLE HANDOUT
TOPIC: TYPES OF ESSAYS**

Descriptive Writing

Writing a descriptive paragraph allows you to vividly portray a person, place, object, or event through detailed and sensory language.

Here's a **step-by-step guide** on how to write a descriptive paragraph:

1. **Choose a subject:** Select a specific person, place, object, or event that you want to describe. Make sure it's something you have enough knowledge about or can easily imagine.
2. **Brainstorm and observe:** Take a moment to brainstorm and jot down all the details that come to mind when you think about your subject. If possible, observe the subject closely to gather more specific details.
3. **Start with an engaging introduction:** Begin your descriptive paragraph with a strong opening sentence that grabs the reader's attention and sets the tone for the description. It could be a striking image, an intriguing fact, or a thought-provoking statement.
4. **Organize your paragraph:** Decide on the structure and flow of your paragraph. You can arrange the details in a logical order, from top to bottom, left to right, or based on importance. Alternatively, you can use a spatial or chronological approach if it suits your subject.
5. **Use sensory language:** Incorporate vivid sensory details to make your description come alive. Appeal to the reader's senses by including sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and textures related to your subject. This helps create a more immersive experience for the reader.
6. **Use descriptive language:** Use strong and specific adjectives, adverbs, and nouns to paint a clear picture of your subject. Avoid using vague or general terms. Instead, choose words that evoke imagery and create a distinct impression.
7. **Show, don't tell:** Instead of simply stating facts about your subject, try to show the reader what you're describing through descriptive language and vivid examples. Engage the reader's imagination and allow them to visualize the scene or object.
8. **Include emotions and feelings:** Describe how the subject makes you feel or how it impacts the people or environment around it. Emotions add depth and a personal touch to your description.

9. **Revise and edit:** Read through your paragraph and revise it for clarity, coherence, and flow. Check for any grammatical or spelling errors. Make sure your sentences are well-structured and your ideas are effectively communicated.

10. **Read it aloud:** Once you're satisfied with your descriptive paragraph, read it aloud to ensure it sounds natural and engaging. Pay attention to the rhythm and pacing, making adjustments as necessary.

Remember, practice is key to improving your descriptive writing skills. Experiment with different subjects and settings, and don't be afraid to be creative and imaginative in your descriptions.

Argumentative Writing

Writing an argumentative paragraph involves presenting a clear and persuasive argument on a specific topic.

Here's a **step-by-step guide** on how to write an argumentative paragraph:

1. **Choose a topic:** Select a topic that is debatable and has different perspectives or opinions. Make sure you have a clear understanding of the topic.

2. **State your position:** Begin your paragraph by clearly stating your position or thesis statement. This statement should convey your main argument or the side you are taking on the topic.

3. **Provide evidence:** Support your argument with relevant and credible evidence. This can include facts, statistics, examples, expert opinions, or logical reasoning. Your evidence should be convincing and directly related to your argument.

4. **Counterargument:** Acknowledge and address the opposing viewpoint. Present counterarguments or alternative perspectives and explain why they are flawed or weaker compared to your argument. This demonstrates that you have considered different viewpoints and strengthens your position.

5. **Elaborate and explain:** Develop your argument by providing additional details, explanations, or examples. Clearly explain how your evidence supports your main argument and why it is significant.

6. **Use persuasive language:** Choose your words carefully to make your argument more persuasive. Use strong and compelling language to convey your point of view effectively. Avoid generalizations and be precise in your statements.

7. **Transition words:** Use transitional words and phrases to create coherence and guide the reader through your paragraph. Examples of transition words include "Furthermore," "In addition," "Moreover," "However," "On the other hand," etc.

8. **Concluding sentence:** End your paragraph with a strong concluding sentence that summarizes your main argument and leaves a lasting impression on the reader. This sentence should reinforce your position and provide a sense of closure to your paragraph.

9. **Revise and edit:** After writing your argumentative paragraph, review it for clarity, coherence, and logical flow. Check for any grammatical or spelling errors and make necessary revisions to improve the overall quality of your writing.

Remember, an argumentative paragraph should present a well-structured and persuasive argument supported by evidence. It's important to remain respectful and objective while expressing your viewpoint.

Narrative Writing

Writing a narrative paragraph involves telling a story or describing a sequence of events in a concise and engaging manner.

Here's a **step-by-step guide** on how to write a narrative paragraph:

1. **Start with a strong opening sentence:** Begin your narrative paragraph with a compelling hook that grabs the reader's attention and sets the tone for the story.

2. **Provide context:** Establish the setting and introduce the main characters or elements relevant to the story. This helps the reader understand the background and context of the narrative.

3. **Build the narrative:** Describe the sequence of events in a logical order, focusing on the key moments that drive the story forward. Use vivid and descriptive language to paint a clear picture in the reader's mind.

4. **Show, don't tell:** Instead of simply stating what happened, try to show the events through sensory details, dialogue, and action. This creates a more immersive experience for the reader.

5. **Include conflict or tension:** Every good narrative needs some form of conflict or tension to keep the reader engaged. This can be a problem to be solved, a challenge to overcome, or a clash of personalities.

6. **Develop the plot:** As you progress through the narrative, develop the plot by introducing new elements, complications, or turning points. This helps maintain the reader's interest and adds depth to the story.

7. **Use transitions:** Use transitional words or phrases to connect different parts of the narrative paragraph and ensure a smooth flow between sentences and ideas.

8. **Conclude effectively:** Wrap up the narrative paragraph by providing a satisfying ending or resolution to the story. This could be a reflection, a lesson learned, or a closing statement that ties everything together.

9. **Edit and revise:** Once you've written the narrative paragraph, review and revise it for clarity, coherence, and grammar. Make sure the language is engaging and the structure is well-organized.

10. **Read it aloud:** Before finalizing your narrative paragraph, read it aloud to ensure it sounds natural and flows smoothly. This can help you identify any awkward phrasing or areas that may need improvement.

Remember, a narrative paragraph should engage the reader's imagination and evoke emotions. By following these steps and practicing your storytelling skills, you can create compelling narrative paragraphs.