Mrs. Graves

English I

Paper 2

**Descriptive Paper**

The descriptive essay is a genre of essay that asks the student to describe an object, person, place, experience, emotion, situation, etc. This genre encourages the student’s ability to create a written account of a particular experience. What is more, this genre allows for a great deal of artistic freedom (OWL Purdue). You will be responding to three prompts in which you will describe an imaginary setting, people, and situation. Each response should be 1-2 paragraphs. Use your research for a basis in your descriptions, and follow the guidelines listed below. The writing style will be informal; however, you need to proofread your paper for grammar, spelling and other careless mistakes.

Here are some guidelines for writing a descriptive essay: (OWL Purdue)

***Take time to brainstorm*:** If your instructor asks you to describe your favorite food, make sure that you jot down some ideas before you begin describing it. For instance, if you choose pizza, you might start by writing down a few words: sauce, cheese, crust, pepperoni, sausage, spices, hot, melted, etc. Once you have written down some words, you can begin by compiling descriptive lists for each one.

***Use clear and concise language:*** This means that words are chosen carefully, particularly for their relevancy in relation to that which you are intending to describe.

***Choose vivid language:*** Why use ‘horse’ when you can choose ‘stallion’? Why not use ‘tempestuous’ instead of ‘violent’? Or why not ‘miserly’ in place of ‘cheap’? Such choices form a firmer image in the mind of the reader and often times offer nuanced meanings that serve better one’s purpose.

***Use your senses!*** Remember, if you are describing something, you need to be appealing to the senses of the reader. Explain how the thing smelled, felt, sounded, tasted, or looked. Embellish the moment with senses.

***Be organized!*** It is easy to fall into an incoherent rambling of emotions and senses when writing a descriptive essay. However, you must strive to present an organized and logical description if the reader is to come away from the essay with a cogent sense of what it is you are attempting to describe.

**Points-of-View** (Learner.org)

**Third Person Point of View**  
Here the narrator does not participate in the action of the story as one of the characters, but lets us know exactly how the characters feel. We learn about the characters through this outside voice.

**First Person Point of View**  
In the first person point of view, the narrator does participate in the action of the story. When reading stories in the first person, we need to realize that what the narrator is recounting might not be the objective truth. We should question the trustworthiness of the accounting.

**Omniscient Point of View**  
A narrator who knows everything about all the characters is all knowing, or omniscient.

Prompt Guidelines

**Prompt A: Setting**

*Create a setting for your story loosely based on your country. This place should be isolated from other civilizations and set in ancient times. Use imagery to make your village easy to imagine including details about the climate and landscape. Use a third-person omniscient point-of-view to describe your village.*

Guidelines: The 1-2 paragraphs describe the (1) landscape, the (2) climate, the (3) structure of the village, and the (4) buildings. (5) Uses third-person point-of-view. Creatively describes the (6) original setting with (7) vivid language.

**Prompt B: The People**

*Describe the people who live in your village. Explain their overall appearance, their main occupations, the government, and the culture of your people group. Be creative and succinct in your descriptions, and do not base the people on the people from your country. Use a third-person omniscient point-of-view.*

Guidelines: The 1-2 paragraphs describe the people group’s (1) overall appearance and (2) main occupations. They have an (3) original name. (4) Uses third-person point-of-view. Creatively describes the (5) original people group with (6) vivid language.

**Prompt C: Facing a Fear**

*Begin your story with the prompt listed below. You may change the underlined words to fit your specific setting. This should be told from the perspective of one of your villagers in a first-person point-of-view. Describe something (real and appropriate to your setting) your people group fears by having this character face the fear.*

“I should get up, move around, and work the stiffness from my limbs. But instead I sit, as motionless as the rock beneath me, while the dawn begins to lighten the woods. I can’t fight the sun. I can only watch helplessly as it drags me into a day that I’ve been dreading for months…” –*Catching Fire* by Suzanne Collins

Guidelines: The paragraph begins with the given (1) prompt. The fear is (2) appropriate to the setting and people. The fear is (3) explained, (4) the character faces the fear, and the situation is (5) resolved. (6) Uses first-person point-of-view. Creatively describes the situation with (7) vivid language in 1-2 paragraphs.

**Due Dates:**

1. Paper Workshops are Listed on Course Outline
2. ­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Rough Draft Due (Bring 2 Copies)
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Final Draft Due
4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Presentations