

Descriptive Paragraph Assignment

DIRECTIONS: Watch the short video from an episode of BBC's *Sherlock*. In this segment, Sherlock Holmes uses deduction to describe John Watson.

For your Descriptive Paragraph, look at the two main characters: Sherlock and Watson. Pick one character and use descriptive language to describe the character. Be sure to include physical, personality traits, as well as any key items that you notice. Remember, the goal in descriptive writing is to describe factually, not provide opinions. Make sure your writing is reflective of describing these characters **without** opinions.

YOUR PARAGRAPH SHOULD INCLUDE:

- A. A creative **title** that is relevant to your topic
- B. A **topic sentence**—one sentence that states the topic (the kitchen) and your overall impression of the topic. In other words, what overall feeling does this place give?
- C. Major details—You should include **at least three major detail sentences**. Major details **support** your topic sentence and should each include descriptive language that makes me feel like I am there. This is where you would discuss sounds, smells, sights, etc.
- D. Minor details—You should include **at least three minor details** (but you may need more to meet the word count). Minor details **support** your major details. These are further descriptions and examples of what you have heard, smelled, seen, etc.
- E. Concluding Sentence—one sentences that restates the topic sentence and closes the paragraph naturally
- F. Standard English Grammar—Use appropriate capitalization and punctuation. Also, no abbreviations or contractions! The paragraph should be **typewritten, double-spaced** (meaning skip every other line on the page), be written in **12 point Times New Roman font** with **one-inch margins**, and use **appropriate punctuation and capitalization**.

Before you begin composing your paragraph, create an outline like the model below to get your ideas organized.

Topic Sentence: _____
First major detail:
First minor detail:
Additional minor detail (optional):
Second major detail:
Second minor detail:
Additional minor detail (optional):
Third major detail:
Third minor detail:
Additional minor detail (optional)
Concluding Sentence: _____

After you have composed your paragraph, use the following checklist to check the content of your paragraph:

Please answer yes to each question below if you met each requirement. If you did not, then go back and fix your paragraph. Thanks!

1. Is the first sentence of my paragraph indented five spaces? _____
2. Is it the only sentence in this paragraph that is indented? _____
3. Is the first sentence of my paragraph a topic sentence that tells what my topic is? _____
4. Does my first sentence state my topic and overall impression? _____
5. Does the next sentence introduce my first major detail in support of my overall impression? _____
6. Did it start with a transition word or have a transitional element in it? _____
7. Did the next few sentences (minor details) add strong detail to the first major detail sentence? _____
8. Does the next sentence introduce my second major detail in support of my overall impression? _____
9. Did it start with a transition word or have a transitional element in it? _____
10. Did the next few sentences (minor details) add strong detail to the second point? _____
11. Does the next sentence introduce my third major detail in support of my overall impression? _____
12. Did it start with a transition word or have a transitional element in it? _____
13. Did the next few sentences (minor details) add strong detail to the third point? _____
14. Did my paragraph have a concluding sentence which tied up the paragraph and reminded my reader of my controlling idea? _____
15. Did it start with a transition word or have a transitional element in it? _____
16. Is each sentence in my paragraph a complete sentence? _____
17. Is this assignment 200-250 words? _____

A helpful tip: If your paragraph is too short, add a fourth or fifth major detail with minor details to support it.