

What you need to know about descriptive writing...

1. Description is giving details about a person, place, thing, etc. that allows the reader to experience what you have

- In order to create a good description you must appeal to the five senses and create pictures in the readers mind.

2. What is description?

- LOOK!
 - The first thing you have to do is to observe your environment.
 - This includes the place, the people, the actions and the objects that are around you.
 - Remember although you are writing imagine that you are telling your friend about what you have experienced. Give them all the details they need.
- CREATE WORD PICTURES!
 - You already use adjectives in your writing but you want to be even more creative. You want to create pictures in their mind- Word pictures or Imagery.
 - Imagery does not only include what you see it also includes what you hear, smell, taste, touch and even feel.

3. Your reader must be able to close their eyes listen to your words and create a mental image of what you are describing. Imagination makes It happen but your words can help

4. Some descriptive details to consider when describing an object

- Examine the following :
 - Colours
 - Shapes
 - Sizes
 - Texture (how it feels)

5. Some descriptive details to consider when describing a person

- Examine the following:
 - Physical Appearance
 - Facial Expressions
 - Attire
 - Gestures(body movements)

6. What you should consider when describing a place

- Examine the location. Is it a...
 - Man-made World- buildings, objects, vehicles
 - Natural World- trees , animals, mountains, beaches, weather
 - Even an imaginary world

7. Show not Tell

- One the most important things to remember when you are creating a description is to show not tell.
- What does this mean?
 - Show not tell: Scenario 1
If you are writing about someone who is excited about going to a party how would you describe this?
 - A. She was excited when her parents gave her permission to go to the party.
 - B. Her eyes widened with surprise and her lips parted as she screamed with delight when her parents said “Yes”
 - Show not tell: Scenario 2
You are in the midst of a thunderstorm. How would you describe this?
 - A. The rain was falling heavily and everyone was afraid
 - B. The raindrops attacked the galvanized roof and the windows rattled. We huddled under the bed and held each other tightly

8. Which one is clearer ?

- The descriptions in the first example (labeled A) tells you what is happening but it does not create pictures in your mind
- The descriptions in the second example (labeled B) create images in the readers mind and allow them to experience it fully

<http://www.slideshare.net/englishteacher-tnt/introduction-to-descriptive-writing-8536038>