





# Descriptive Writing

**Descriptive writing** creates a picture of a person, place, thing, or event. For this project, you will create a descriptive brochure about you!

## Assignment Criteria

Your brochure should include the following characteristics:

Page 1: An interesting cover

Page 2, 3, 4: Three paragraphs that use sensory language to describe you. You might want to write about your family, the things you enjoy doing, what you are most proud of, or things that are surprising and unique about you.

- A graphic for each paragraph  
Note: You may draw your own graphics, bring in photos to be scanned, and you may use clip art.
- Rich sensory language that appeals to the five senses.
- Figurative language that creates vivid comparisons. Bonus points for at least one metaphor!

Page 5: A timeline of your life.

Page 6: Three goals for this year.

## Figurative Language

Figurative language is writing that is not meant to be taken literally. In your descriptions use figurative language such as metaphors and similes.

- **Simile:** A comparison expressed using the word like or as.  
*One of my hobbies is crosscountry running. Unfortunately, I am as slow as a snail.*
- **Metaphor:** A comparison expressed without the words like or as. One thing is referred to as if it were another.  
*One of my hobbies is crosscountry running. Unfortunately, I am a snail.*

## Gathering Sensory Details

Think about the things you like to taste, touch, smell, see, and hear:

Taste	Touch	Smell	Sight	Sound
I love the taste of spicy food	I love the feel of a cozy, warm, campfire	I love the smell of rain	I love the sight of any city at 5:00 a.m.	I love the sound of the clickity-clack of a train
fresh salsa	my soft, purple bathrobe	dusty mountain bike trails	dusk when the sky is shades of purple, the beach is empty, and the first star shines brightly	the sound of a snowflake makes when it touches the ground
ice tea on a hot day	on a cold winter morning	the salt air at the beach	Restaurants on Clement street in San Francisco	my mp3 player when I am running like a turtle
warm sour-dough bread				

## Parts of a Paragraph

**The Topic Sentence** tells the reader what the paragraph is about. It includes a subject (who or what) and a focus (what about it).

*My favorite things to do are traveling and running.*

**The Body** is the middle of the paragraph. This part of the paragraph provides the reader with all the information they need to understand the topic.

*When I visit new cities, I always go for a run early in the morning while the other tourists are still sleeping. I make my way along the narrow, cobble streets and try to find a long hill or a stairway to climb. At the top, I take in the city as the sun rises over a famous tower or an ancient basilica and the smell of pastries baking fills the air. Down below I can hear, the shopkeepers calling out to each other in Italian or French or Spanish while they sweep the sidewalk and prepare for the day. On the way back to the hotel, I always pick up some freshly baked treats for my sleeping family.*

**The Closing Sentence** may sum up the information in the paragraph, or tell what it means.

*I may be as slow as a snail, but a leisurely early morning run is my favorite way to see a new city.*

## The Writing Process

1. Brainstorm Ideas
2. Collect Information—Gather Sensory Details
3. Organize Information
4. Write
5. Peer Conference, Edit, and Revise
6. Publish and Present