

Descriptive Paragraph

BEFORE YOU START

It is a good idea to understand how much detail you should write and how it should be written before you start brainstorming. This essay will be about the *character point* of a pet or person. Each body paragraph must have two *specific* examples of events that happened at one time. Here is an example using a cat at the subject—this is what I expect your body paragraph to look like. Notice that:

- The *topic sentence* is underlined
- The *major supporting detail sentences* are **bold**
- I have numbered the sentences in the minor supporting details

All of that makes the paragraph structure more clear. The paragraph:

My cat, Pepper, is a very mischievous little feline. Yesterday, he indulged in one of his favorite habits: climbing onto and falling off of tall furniture. ¹He loves to climb on top of cabinets, bookshelves, curtain rods, and coat racks. ²Last night, he attempted to go around the entire room without touching the floor. ³Because there are gaps, he tried to jump from perch to perch. ⁴From the top of a recliner chair, he first stared at his goal of the bookshelf for a long minute, only his long, swinging tail showing his emotion. ⁵He then crouched, shook his bottom, and, with total concentration, jumped. ⁶However, he slipped off the top shelf, a momentary screaming ball of flying paws and claws. ⁷He bounced off the coffee table, spilling flowers, magazines, and a candy dish across the floor. ⁸Once he collected himself, Pepper then acted like nothing had happened. **Previous to that, he caused a ruckus chasing a small beetle around the house.** ¹If an insect comes into the house, Pepper immediately becomes a jungle cat. ²Last week, Pepper spotted a beetle got into the living room somehow. ³He crept down close to the floor, and followed the pest across the carpet. ⁴The beetle sensed he was being hunted and darted under a cabinet. ⁵Pepper instantly leaped and ran, crashing into the cabinet while his paws furiously waved under the bottom of the furniture. ⁶After scratching the floor and much of the furniture, he did not catch the bug. ⁷If we leave the cat alone in the house for several hours, it looks like a war zone. ⁸Pepper will be sitting in the middle of the room, licking his claws, proud of his achievement.

Notice that the **topic sentence** summarizes the **whole paragraph**. Notice that each **major supporting detail sentence** summarizes each example. Notice that I do not have more than one sentence of background information.

Notice that each example is one event that happened at one time. I did not say that *Pepper always chases bugs* or that *He will often fall off of furniture*. You must focus on the one time, not what happens many times.

You do not have to write 8 sentences of minor details, but do not have each example only have exactly 6 short or medium sentences. Don't do the minimum.

ASSIGNMENT:

Open a new Google Docs file inside your **Shared Folder**, inside your **Descriptive Paragraph** folder.

Give the file the name "Descriptive Paragraph."

This will be a **single paragraph** about someone different from the topic you chose for Essay #1. Go back to your brainstorming, find another person with a different character point, and then write a single body paragraph (like the example on the previous page) about that person and their character point.

Make sure to have a clear **topic sentence**. Underline it.

Make sure to use **two examples**, and begin each example with a **major supporting detail sentence**. Make the major supporting detail sentence **bold**.

Make sure that each example has:

- At least 6 sentences, perhaps more;
- No more than one "background information" sentence (if you have one of these, there must be 6 *other* sentences in the example);
- Sentences which are very specific, describing a single event that took place at one time;
- Sentences which focus on the person and their character point, not other people

You must have a header;

You must have top-left information;

The document must have a title;

The paragraph must be a minimum of 15 sentences;

The document must be double-spaced.