Choose one of the topics below for a descriptive essay. You could also use these ideas to help you brainstorm your own topics. Then write a descriptive essay that appeals to readers' senses and captures their imagination.

- Describe what is outside your kitchen window.
- Describe your bedroom.
- Describe a trip to a beach that you like.
- Describe your backyard or neighborhood in the early morning or late at night.
- Describe a favorite holiday celebration.
- Describe something that you would like to invent.
- Describe a fireworks display.
- Describe an activity you enjoyed on a vacation.
- Describe your favorite type of storm.
- Describe an amazing animal or insect.
- Compare your two favorite snacks or desserts.
- Compare a ride on a plane with a ride on a train.
- Describe your favorite actor, athlete, or musician.
- Describe a food or plant that smells awful or pleasant.
- Compare the summer and winter weather where you live.
- Describe the perfect sibling you would like to have.
- Describe your feelings when you succeeded or failed at something important to you.

## Writing Traits for Descriptive Writing

Ask yourself these questions throughout the writing process.

| Ideas | Does my writing have a clear focus on one topic?  
Do I include details that help readers picture the topic? |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Organization | Am I planning my writing by organizing facts and details in a graphic organizer, a list, an outline, or notes?  
Does my beginning identify the topic and inform readers on the topic?  
Do the body paragraphs connect one idea to the next?  
Are the body paragraphs organized in chronological order or geographical order?  
Does the ending sum up my ideas? |
| Voice | Is my tone appropriate for the audience and my purpose? |
| Word Choice | Do I use rich sensory details?  
Do I use literary techniques, such as simile, metaphor, and personification?  
Do I use transition words and phrases to link ideas? |
| Sentence Fluency | Do I use a variety of sentence types and lengths? |
| Conventions | Do I use correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization? |
| Presentation | Is my writing neat or typed and easy to read?  
Does the paper have consistent margins and spacing?  
Do I include a related visual to help readers picture my description? |