

Descriptive Essay Outline Template

I. Introduction

Goal: Introduce the subject and create a strong first impression.

Lead sentence (image, moment, or emotion):

Context for the description (who/what, where, why it matters):

Main impression statement (central feeling or idea):

Key physical or surface details to introduce:

A. First noticeable feature _____

B. Supporting detail or comparison _____

C. Second noticeable feature _____

D. Supporting detail or reaction _____

II. Core Traits, Qualities, or Characteristics

Goal: Show defining qualities through examples.

Topic sentence:

A. Quality or trait #1 _____

Example or short scene showing this trait

B. Quality or trait #2 _____

Example or short scene showing this trait

C. Quality or trait #3 (optional) _____

Example or short scene showing this trait

III. Actions, Habits, or Patterns (if applicable)

Goal: Bring the subject to life through movement or routine.

Topic sentence:

A. Activity or habit #1 _____

Details (where, when, how it happens)

B. Activity or habit #2 _____

Details (where, when, how it happens)

C. Interaction with others (if relevant)

IV. Sensory Focus

Goal: Deepen the description using the senses.

Topic sentence:

A. Sight (colors, movement, light)

B. Sound (voices, noise, silence)

C. Touch / smell / temperature (choose one or two)

V. Meaning or Insight

Goal: Explain what this subject reveals or represents.

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Topic sentence:

A. Moment that led to understanding

B. What this shows about the subject or about you

VI. Conclusion

Goal: Leave a lasting impression.

Return to an image or idea from the introduction:

Final reflection or feeling:

Closing line (what stays with the reader):
