

Rubric
Descriptive Essay

CRITERIA	4 points	3 points	2 points	1 point
Developing a Topic	The student uses relevant well-chosen facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples to develop a topic.	The student uses some facts, definitions, quotations, or other information to develop a topic.	The student uses very few facts, definitions, quotations, or other information to develop a topic.	The student does not formally introduce the topic.
Using Transitions	The student uses varied and appropriate transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.	The student mostly uses appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.	The student seldom uses appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.	The essay does not include varied transitions.
Using Appropriate Language	The student uses appropriate vocabulary, including sensory words, to explain the topic throughout the essay.	The student mostly uses appropriate vocabulary and some sensory words to explain the topic throughout the essay.	The student sometimes uses vocabulary incorrectly or out of context.	The student makes no attempt to use vocabulary that enhances the content of the essay.
Making a Conclusion	The student provides a clearly stated conclusion. The statement acknowledges and supports the information/description presented.	The student provides a concluding statement that generally supports the information or description presented.	The student provides a vague concluding statement that does not specifically support the information or description presented.	The student does not have a concluding statement.