

Descriptive Essay Rubric

	6	5	4	3	2	1	Points
Ideas	The topic, focus, and details make the essay truly memorable.	The essay is informative with a clear focus and specific details.	The essay is informative with a clear focus. More specific details are needed.	The focus of the essay needs to be clearer, and more specific details are needed.	The topic needs to be narrowed or expanded. Many more specific details are needed.	A new topic needs to be selected.	
Organization	The organization makes the essay informative and easy to read.	The beginning is interesting. The middle supports the focus. The ending works well. Transitions are used.	The essay is divided into a beginning, a middle, and an ending. Some transitions are used.	The beginning or ending is weak. The middle needs a paragraph for each main point. More transitions are needed.	The beginning, middle, and ending all run together. Paragraphs and transitions are needed.	The essay should be reorganized.	
Voice and Sensory Details	The voice sounds confident, knowledgeable, and uses sensory details that bring the subject to life.	The voice sounds knowledgeable and confident and mostly uses sensory details.	The voice sounds well-informed most of the time and includes some sensory details.	The voice sometimes sounds unsure and uses few sensory details.	The voice sounds unsure and uses few sensory details.	The voice cannot be heard and includes no sensory details.	
Word Choice	The word choice makes the essay very clear, informative, and fun to read.	Specific nouns and action verbs make the essay clear and informative. Unfamiliar terms are defined.	Some nouns and verbs could be more specific. Unfamiliar terms are defined.	Too many general words are used. Specific nouns and verbs are needed. Some words need to be defined.	General or missing words make this essay hard to understand.	Many more specific words are needed.	
Sentence Fluency	The sentences flow smoothly and are enjoyable to read.	The sentences read smoothly. A variety of sentences is used.	Most of the sentences read smoothly, but more variety is needed.	Many short, choppy sentences need to be combined to make a better variety of sentences.	Many sentences are choppy or incomplete and need to be rewritten.	Most sentences need to be rewritten.	
Conventions	Punctuation and grammar are correct. Spelling is correct.	The essay has a few minor errors in punctuation, spelling, or grammar.	The essay has several errors in punctuation, spelling, or grammar.	Some errors cause confusion.	Many errors make the essay confusing and hard to read.	Help is needed to make corrections.	

Total Points
____/36

Average
