

## Descriptive Essay Blank Outline Template

**TITLE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TYPE:** ☐ Person ☐ Place ☐ Experience ☐ Object

### I. INTRODUCTION

Hook (vivid detail, quote, or moment):

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Thesis (what/who and why it matters):

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### II. BODY PARAGRAPH 1 - FIRST MAJOR ASPECT

Topic Sentence:

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Supporting Detail 1:

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Supporting Detail 2:

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Supporting Detail 3:

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Sensory Details (sight, sound, smell, touch, taste):

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### III. BODY PARAGRAPH 2 - SECOND MAJOR ASPECT

Topic Sentence:

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Supporting Detail 1:

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Supporting Detail 2:

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Supporting Detail 3:

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Sensory Details:

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### IV. BODY PARAGRAPH 3 - THIRD MAJOR ASPECT

Topic Sentence:

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Supporting Detail 1:

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Supporting Detail 2:

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Supporting Detail 3:

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Sensory Details:

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#### **V. BODY PARAGRAPH 4 (OPTIONAL) - FOURTH ASPECT**

Topic Sentence:

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Supporting Detail 1:

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Supporting Detail 2:

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Supporting Detail 3:

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Sensory Details:

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#### **VI. CONCLUSION**

Restate Main Impression:

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Connect Key Elements:

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Final Vivid Image or Thought:

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Why It Matters/Lasting Impact:

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#### SENSORY DETAILS CHECKLIST

☐ **SIGHT:** Colors, shapes, sizes, light, movement Notes:

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☐ **SOUND:** Noises, voices, music, silence, echoes Notes:

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☐ **SMELL:** Scents, aromas, odors, fragrances Notes:

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☐ **TOUCH:** Textures, temperatures, weight, physical sensations Notes:

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☐ **TASTE:** Flavors, aftertaste (if applicable) Notes:

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#### DESCRIPTIVE TECHNIQUES TO USE

☐ Similes ("like" or "as" comparisons) ☐ Metaphors (direct comparisons) ☐ Personification (human qualities to non-human) ☐ Specific nouns (not just "tree" but "oak") ☐ Strong verbs (not "walked" but "strutted") ☐ Precise adjectives (not "big" but "towering")

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## ORGANIZATIONAL PATTERN

☐ Spatial (left to right, top to bottom, near to far) ☐ Chronological (time order) ☐ Order of importance (most to least significant) ☐ General to specific (zoom in approach) ☐ Outside to inside

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## QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

### For PERSON essays focus on:

- Physical appearance
- Personality traits
- Mannerisms and habits
- Actions and behavior
- Personal impact

### For PLACE essays focus on:

- Location and setting
- Physical features
- Atmosphere and mood
- Sensory details
- Activity and purpose

### For EXPERIENCE essays focus on:

- Beginning and context
- Chronological unfolding
- Peak moment
- Sensory immersion
- Reflection and meaning

### For OBJECT essays focus on:

- Physical description
  - Material and condition
  - Function and use
  - History and origin
  - Personal significance
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### PRE-WRITING BRAINSTORM

List 10-15 specific details about your subject:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_
  4. \_\_\_\_\_
  5. \_\_\_\_\_
  6. \_\_\_\_\_
  7. \_\_\_\_\_
  8. \_\_\_\_\_
  9. \_\_\_\_\_
  10. \_\_\_\_\_
  11. \_\_\_\_\_
  12. \_\_\_\_\_
  13. \_\_\_\_\_
  14. \_\_\_\_\_
  15. \_\_\_\_\_
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### WORD BANK (fill in during brainstorming)

Adjectives: \_\_\_\_\_

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Verbs: \_\_\_\_\_

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Nouns: \_\_\_\_\_

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Comparisons: \_\_\_\_\_

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### REVISION CHECKLIST

☐ Strong, engaging hook ☐ Clear thesis statement ☐ Each paragraph has topic sentence ☐  
Included all five senses (where applicable) ☐ Used "show don't tell" technique ☐ Varied  
sentence structure ☐ Specific details, not vague generalities ☐ Smooth transitions between  
paragraphs ☐ Conclusion ties everything together ☐ Proofread for grammar/spelling ☐  
Eliminated repetitive words ☐ Checked for logical organization

### NOTES & ADDITIONAL IDEAS:

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