

STUDENT RUBRIC for Descriptive Writing

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Put a checkmark beside each question that you answer with “yes.”

Descriptive

SCORE (Count the checkmarks in this section.)

- 1. Have I used descriptive words and details to create strong mental pictures?
- 2. Have I used appropriate transition words?
- 3. Have I used suitable figurative language to develop sensory images?
- 4. Is the purpose of my descriptive writing stated in my topic sentence?
- 5. Have I developed the topic in an interesting and informative way?

Ideas

SCORE (Count the checkmarks in this section.)

- 1. Is the topic and purpose of my paper clearly described in the topic sentence?
- 2. Have I narrowed or expanded my topic appropriately?
- 3. Are there at least three main points to develop the topic of my paper?
- 4. Is there at least one detail that supports and develops each of my main points?
- 5. Have I chosen a topic that is appropriate to my purpose, genre, and audience?

Organization

SCORE (Count the checkmarks in this section.)

- 1. Is my paper well organized and easy to follow?
- 2. Does my paper have a clear introduction, body, and conclusion?
- 3. Are my ideas in a logical order?
- 4. Does my paragraph have a topic that is supported by every sentence in the paragraph?
- 5. Does the organization of my sentences reflect my purpose and audience?

Word Choice

SCORE (Count the checkmarks in this section.)

- 1. Have I used precise nouns and verbs to explain and describe my topic?
- 2. Have I used vivid adjectives and adverbs to create strong mental pictures?
- 3. Have I replaced unclear words with stronger words?
- 4. Have I deleted incorrect, repeated, or unnecessary words?
- 5. Have I used words appropriate to my purpose and audience?

Voice

SCORE

(Count the checkmarks in this section.)

- 1. Have I developed a unique voice to show my style of writing?
- 2. Does my voice reflect my personality and feelings about the topic?
- 3. Do my individual word choices reflect my unique writing voice?
- 4. Have I used figures of speech (similes, metaphors, personification) to help develop my voice?
- 5. Have I used vocabulary appropriate for my purpose and audience?

Sentence Fluency

SCORE

(Count the checkmarks in this section.)

- 1. Can a reader easily follow my ideas?
- 2. Have I combined short, choppy sentences to make my writing sound smooth?
- 3. Have I used different types of sentences?
- 4. Have I used a variety of long and short sentences to add interest to my paper?
- 5. Have I used transition words to connect related sentences?

Conventions

SCORE

(Count the checkmarks in this section.)

- 1. Have I followed the conventions of capitalization?
- 2. Have I followed the conventions of punctuation?
- 3. Have I spelled every word correctly?
- 4. Have I corrected all usage mistakes?
- 5. Have I corrected all sentence mistakes, such as fragments?

Formatting

SCORE

(Count the checkmarks in this section.)

- 1. Have I written neatly in pencil and used single-spaced lines and wide margins?
- 2. Have I written the title at the center of the top line, with my name under it?
- 3. Have I skipped a line under my name before writing my paper?
- 4. Have I indented the first line of the paragraph?
- 5. Does my whole paper look clean and neat?

Final Analysis

SCORE

(Count the checkmarks in this section.)

- 1. Does my description give me a mental image of what I am describing?
- 2. Is my description detailed enough to be effective?
- 3. Do I think my description will be interesting and appealing to my audience?
- 4. Does my description flow smoothly when read aloud?
- 5. Does my description fit into the proper genre?