

# Descriptive Essay: Parent Rubric

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parents:** Please review your student's graded outlines and verify that all noted corrections have been made. Then, together with your student, continue revising by using this rubric as a guide. When finished, score the items in the left column and sign and date this form.

## ITEMS GRADED BY PARENT

Each checkbox in the left column is worth ½ point. Together, you may continue making revisions until full points are earned.

### General

- Intro & Conclusion – minimum 4 sentences (please count)
- Body Paragraphs – minimum 6 sentences (please count)

### MLA Formatting

- 1 inch margins on all sides.
- Double-spaced. No extra space between paragraphs. (i.e. set paragraph spacing to 0 before and after)
- Times New Roman 12-pt font. (including header)
- The header includes the student's last name, a space, and the page number in the upper right corner of every page, ½ inch from the top.
- On the first page, aligned left:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Line: Student's First and Last Name
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Line: Tutor's Name (spelled correctly)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Line: Course Name
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Line: Date formatted like: 15 August 2023
- The essay title is centered and properly capitalized on the 5<sup>th</sup> line. (*not bold, not italics, not underlined*)
- The introduction begins on the 6<sup>th</sup> line.
- The first line of each paragraph is indented ½ inch.

### Word Choice & Sentence Structure

- Strong word choice, very descriptive language
- Limit of 2 "be" verbs per paragraph. (please count each occurrence of *am, is, are, was, were, be, being, been*)
- No contractions.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> person voice only (*he, she, it, they*) except if sharing personal experience as a supporting detail.
- At least 2 different sentence openers per paragraph.
- Complete sentences; no run-ons or fragments.

**Parent Points:** \_\_\_\_\_ / 8

## ITEMS TO BE GRADED BY TUTOR

Use this list as a guide to help with paragraph revisions but do not tally the items in this column.

- Creative Title: hints at essay's topic

### Introduction

- Hook: grabs attention; hints; does not reveal the full topic.
- Narrowing sentences: provide background and lead the reader from the hook to the thesis.
- Thesis statement: the last sentence; clear topic; 3 prongs.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Body Paragraph

- Topic sentence: broad, directly relates to 1<sup>st</sup> thesis prong.
- Supporting Detail/Evidence (first type)
- Transition
- Supporting Detail/Evidence (second type)
- Concluding sentence: wraps up the topic without sounding repetitive. (and possibly bridges to the next paragraph)
- All details must relate to the topic

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Body Paragraph

- Follow the same structure as above for 2<sup>nd</sup> thesis prong.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Body Paragraph

- Follow the same structure as above for 3<sup>rd</sup> thesis prong.

### Bridge Transitions

- Use words/phrases to transition between the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> body paragraphs and again between the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraphs.
- Included in either the last sentence of one paragraph or the first sentence of the next paragraph.

### Conclusion

- Restated thesis: the first sentence; say it in a new way that is not repetitive; *multiple* changes made such as reorder the prongs, use synonyms, different sentence structure, long vs. short, show vs. tell, etc.
- Broadening sentences: remind reader of strongest points and/or suggest an application; no new evidence
- Clincher: the final sentence; both reminds the reader of the opening hook as well as wraps up the entire essay

### Other

- Communication: clear, concise, not awkward or repetitive
- Proper grammar, punctuation, capitalization, spelling.
- Complete sentences, no run-ons or fragments.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_