

# Sample Writing Topics

Choose a topic from the list below. Remember to choose the topic you know the most about. Make your writing piece 1 to 2 pages in length, handwritten.

## Descriptive

1. A newspaper is having a contest among elementary students to see who can write the most effective description of a favorite meal or an interesting meal. Write an entry for the contest in which you DESCRIBE one of your favorite meals or one that was unusual or interesting. DESCRIBE it so clearly that the judges know exactly what is like.
2. Think of a place you can picture clearly in your mind – a place not many people have a chance to visit. It might be a place very few people even know about. DESCRIBE this place so clearly that a person reading your paper will feel as if he or she is right there.
3. DESCRIBE a pet you own or would like to own. Tell how it looks, acts and feels when you touch it.

### How to Write a Descriptive Paper

Descriptive writing describes a person, a place, a thing, or an idea. When you write a descriptive paragraph, you should use words that help your readers see, hear, smell, taste, and feel what you are describing. You should tell your readers what colors things are, how big things are, what things sound like, etc. Your readers should feel as if they are right there with you.

#### Descriptive Writing:

- Uses the five senses.
- “Paints a picture.”
- Uses a variety of words.
- Creates a specific emotion or feeling.

## Model Descriptive Writing Paragraph

You can tell a lot about Evan by looking at his face. The first thing you notice are his big brown eyes that always seem so shiny and alert. You wouldn't notice his pug nose except that it seems to be running all of the time. Like many little boys, he wipes it with his sleeve rather than a Kleenex. His mouth seems to have two basic positions. He smiles when he's got trouble on his mind, or he clenches his mouth shut when he doesn't want to do something like eat his lunch. Evan's tongue, which he likes to stick out, is usually orange from his favorite fruit drink. Whenever someone tries to clean his mouth or chin, he squirms and turns away. Evan likes his face just the way it is.

# Descriptive Writing

## Student Model

This model is based on an essay submitted by fourth-grader Mia. She uses some vivid verbs and sensory details—“devour juicy caramel-covered apples,” “crisp fall breeze,” “soft spring trickles of rain splashing the sidewalks,” “warm summer sun”—to help the reader experience her favorite place.

### **My Favorite Place to Go**

Do you have a favorite place to go—a place with family, good weather, and fun things to do like crabbing? I’m glad I do. New Jersey is my favorite place for many reasons.

The first reason is my family. Over half of my family lives in New Jersey. When I visit, my cousins and I laugh and play all day and night. My uncles and aunts take me to the boardwalk where we ride tall, long roller coasters. We devour juicy caramel-covered apples and foot-long hot dogs. My family is fun to be with.

The second reason for New Jersey being my favorite place is the weather. Instead of being hot and sweaty, it’s always cool and moist. When I think about my visits, I can just feel the crisp fall breeze in my hair. I can just see the white, fluffy winter snow. I can just hear the soft spring trickles of rain splashing on the sidewalks. I can just feel the warm summer sun on my face. The weather is great!

The third reason for New Jersey being my favorite place is crabbing. If it’s crab season, we crab. We keep the blue crabs and the snow crabs, and we let the others go. Sometimes we catch crabs on hooks, and sometimes we lower crab cages into the bay. Then we pull them out later. One time my brother caught a crab so big that it got stuck in the crab cage! The crab finally got out, but it hurt one of its legs and broke the cage trying. Poor crab!

For all these reasons, New Jersey is my favorite place to go. If you don’t have a favorite place, I think you should search for one. It’s good to visit a favorite place—a place where you can make special memories. By the way, if you crab at your special place, be sure to get a big crab cage.