

Name _____

Period _____ Date _____

Descriptive Essay Rubric

Title of Essay reflects content: Yes No

Peer Assessor: _____

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
Introduction	Introductory paragraph clearly states subject of essay and captures reader's attention.	Introductory paragraph states subject of essay but is not particularly inviting to the reader.	Introductory paragraph attempts to state subject of essay but does not capture reader's attention.	No attempt is made to state the subject of the essay in an introductory paragraph.
Sensory Details	Essay includes details that appeal to at least three of the five senses (taste, touch, sound, sight, smell).	Includes details that appeal to fewer than three of the five senses.	Includes details that appeal to only one of the five senses.	Includes no details that appeal to one of the five senses.
Word Choice	Writer uses vivid words and phrases that linger or draw pictures in the reader's mind, and the choice and placement of the words seems accurate, natural and not forced.	Writer uses vivid words and phrases that linger or draw pictures in the reader's mind, but occasionally the words are used inaccurately or seem overdone.	Writer uses words that communicate clearly, but the writing lacks variety, punch or flair.	Writer uses a limited vocabulary that does not communicate strongly or capture the reader's interest. Jargon or cliches may be present and detract from the meaning.
Simile/Metaphor/Personification	Writer effectively uses simile, metaphor, and personification to describe the subject.	Writer uses one example of simile, metaphor, or personification to describe the subject.	Writer may try to use simile, metaphor, and personification but does so incorrectly.	Writer does not include simile, metaphor, or personification in essay.
Sentence Structure (Sentence Fluency)	All sentences are well-constructed with varied structure.	Most sentences are well-constructed with varied structure.	Most sentences are well-constructed but have a similar structure.	Sentences lack structure and appear incomplete or rambling.
Grammar, Spelling, Capitalization, & Punctuation	There are no errors in grammar, spelling, capitalization, or punctuation. Rubric is attached to essay. Essay is completed on time.	There are some errors; however, these errors do not distract the reader. Rubric is attached to essay. Essay is completed on time.	There are errors that distract the reader. Rubric is attached to essay. Essay is completed on time.	There are serious errors that interfere with the reader's understanding of the essay. Rubric is not attached to essay. Essay is completed on time.