

DESCRIPTIVE PARAGRAPHS

Painting a Picture for your Reader

Listening Activity

□ Watch the following Youtube video and take notes on what the author says about descriptive paragraphs:

□ http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smj_5BOzrXE

Appealing to the Reader's Senses



- Use words that help the reader:
 - Touch
 - Taste
 - Smell
 - See
 - Hear
- Create a “word picture” that helps the reader to create a mental image of what you are describing using words

Word Choice

- Strong Action Verbs

- ▣ Helps the reader to see and feel the character's actions, movements, gestures

I.e. Use “bolted” instead of “ran”

- Use comparisons (similes/metaphors)

- ▣ By comparing your subject with familiar objects, people, experiences, you can draw on your reader's prior knowledge to help describe a new image

I.e. His hair was as smooth as silk



□ Descriptive Adjectives

- Use adjectives to help describe nouns (places, people, things)

- Be creative – think of colours, textures, qualities etc

I.e. Her blue, crumpled, torn backpack fell to the floor.

□ Descriptive Adverbs (words ending in –ly)

- Use adverbs to help describe actions

I.e. He gingerly placed his backpack on the floor.

Paragraph Structure



- Focus on describing only one subject, setting or event:
 - Topic sentence – briefly state the topic you are describing.
 - Three supporting sentences
 - Concluding sentence – restate the topic you are describing with a final description that sums up your main points