Descriptive Essay Outline Middle School

I. Introduction: Opening Paragraph

A. Provide a Hook

1. It should grab the audience and hold their attention

2. It should also introduce the topic or be relevant to the subject you will describe

B. Give some Background

C. Close with a Thesis Statement

1. This should let the reader know what it is you will do in the paper

2. It should also tell them how you will do it

II. Body

A. First Paragraph

1. The first body paragraph should introduce the first topic that you will describe—for example, if the subject of your essay is a restaurant, the first paragraph can be about what you see and hear when you walk in.

2. The paragraph should have a topic sentence that lets the reader know what you plan on describing in that paragraph.

3. The following sentences should all be related to the topic and should support it in some way with various descriptions.

i. Remember—if a sentence does not relate in some way to the main topic of the paragraph, cut it out.

ii. The paragraph should be at minimum three sentences long.

B. Second Paragraph

1. The second body paragraph should follow in the same manner as the first.

2. It should begin with a transition word or phrase, so that the reader can easily move from the first body paragraph to the second. You can find a good list of transition phrases here.

3. Because it is a new paragraph, it should cover a new topic—a different aspect of the subject you are describing. If we are using the example of the restaurant, you can describe the options available to you on the menu in this paragraph.

C. Third Paragraph

1. The third body paragraph will cover the last aspect of the subject that you want to describe.

2. Use another transition word or phrase to begin the paragraph and to introduce your topic sentence.

III. Conclusion: Closing Paragraph

A. Restate the main purpose of your essay.

B. Reiterate the main points of the paper.

C. Provide a closing statement that summarizes what you have described—in this case, your overall feelings towards the restaurant.