

“ My grandmother’s rocking chair sits in my living room today, and even though she’s dead, her rocking chair reminds me of her and brings her back to life for me. Sometimes special objects can represent the person we associate with them, and the rocker comforts me today just as my grandmother comforted me when I was a child. ”

### Memaw’s Rocker

My grandmother’s rocking chair sits empty in the corner of the living room. The simple unpainted cane rocker would be of little interest to an antique dealer, but I wouldn’t part with it for the world. The seat is cupped slightly from years of use: afternoons and evenings when she sat shelling peas, darning socks, or knitting sweaters. The arms are sanded smooth from the constant motion of her thin arms. The chair is silent now, but if I close my eyes, I can still hear the squeak of the rocker against the pine floor and hear the click of her knitting needles. They were sounds that always comforted me and made me feel as if everything were right with the world. Even today, I can’t look at the rocker without seeing my Memaw smiling at me over the rim of her glasses and hearing her say she loves me.

### Peer Example Description of an Object



| Beth

## Organization of Description

Descriptions can be organized spatially (left to right, top to bottom, etc.); chronologically (in time order); or in order of importance (the thing that strikes you first or that is dominant about what you are describing). The subject and purpose of your description will guide your choice and organization of details.

## Thesis Statements

The thesis or topic sentence generally presents the subject of the description and/or establishes the tone or mood of the description. It controls the details you will include.

Pop stole the show at the family reunion.

The subject of the description is Pop, and the attitude is positive.

My room reflects my personality.

The subject of the description is both the writer’s room and the writer.

Big Shoals is a place I go to escape the stress of everyday life.

The subject of the description is Big Shoals and the attitude is that it is relaxing.

My biology professor, Mr. Mathews, is a distinguished man.

The writer announces the subject of the description, her biology professor, and her attitude toward him.

My 1974 Dodge station wagon is a beauty.

The writer announces the subject of the description and his attitude toward it.