



1. **Avoid disorganized descriptions.** If your description is haphazard or jumps around, you will confuse the reader. For example, if you describe something on the outside of a house, then something on the inside, and then something on the outside again, the reader will have trouble picturing your subject.
2. **Avoid inconsistent descriptions.** A description that is not consistent in physical perspective or emotional perspective will confuse the reader. For example, if you are describing a place, you will confuse the reader if you combine descriptions from two different seasons of the year. If you are describing a person, do not switch back and forth between positive and negative details about a person because this inconsistency will confuse the reader.
3. **Avoid generalizations and abstractions.** General statements and abstractions don't create an image in the reader's mind and therefore don't help the reader see the subject of your description. Abstract words such as *beautiful*, *lovely*, and *wonderful* mean different things to different people, so they won't help your reader visualize what you have in mind. You should also avoid describing something as *average* or *boring* because such words don't help the reader see your subject and may stop the reader from reading further.

Select one of the topics below to develop as a paragraph or an essay.

1. Describe one of your favorite relatives. What makes him or her so special? Make sure you include mannerisms, patterns of speech, and anything that reveals his or her personality.
2. Choose a place that is important to you and decide on an adjective that describes the emotion or feeling of the place (peaceful, frightening, etc.). Don't use this descriptive word in the description, but select details that elicit that mood or feeling in the reader. When the reader finishes your description, he or she should be able to name the emotion you had in mind when you wrote it.
3. Write a description of a favorite object (ring, car, item of clothing). Try to appeal to all of the senses in your description and include how the object makes you feel.
4. Describe the place you most loved to spend time as a child.

Writing Assignment