

The Paragraph Types:

The Descriptive Paragraph

12th Lecture

Descriptive

In descriptive compositions you are generally required to describe people, objects, or scenes. Your description may take the form of a personal impression or may be purely imaginary. Whatever the case, try to include interesting details.

Read carefully the paragraph that follows.

Under the Sea

The diver could just see a dark mass near the rocks. He swam nearer and after turning on his torch, he was able to make out the remains of an old ship. It was covered with mud and shells. Fish swam through a great hole in its side. The diver went through the hole and came to what had once been the engine-room. In the torchlight it looked empty and ghostly. Sea-weeds seemed to grow out of the ship's engines so that they took strange shapes. As he looked round him, the diver found it hard to believe that men had once worked there.

How should you write your description?

If there's one thing you should remember as you write your descriptive essay, it's the famous saying: **show don't tell**. But what's the difference between showing and telling?

Consider these two simple examples:

- *I grew tired after dinner.*
- *As I leaned back and rested my head against the top of the chair, my eyelids began to feel heavy, and the edges of the empty plate in front of me blurred with the white tablecloth.*

- The first sentence *tells* readers that you grew tired after dinner.

- The second sentence *shows* readers that you grew tired. The most effective descriptive paragraphs are loaded with such *showing* because they enable readers to imagine or experience something for themselves.

Write a paragraph describing your University.

Tips:

- *At least 20 sentences.*
- *At least 80 words.*
- *Give a title/topic.*
- *Use the four types of sentences.*