



DESCRIPTIVE WRITING CHECKLIST



- ☐ **TOPIC SENTENCE:** The topic sentence is well-written, correctly placed, and introduces the topic. The topic sentence “hooks” readers, pulls them in.
- ☐ **SUPPORTING DETAILS:** The paragraph contains 6 or more “supporting detail” sentences that relate back to the main idea.
- ☐ **WORD CHOICE (DICTION):** The paragraph offers vivid adjectives or phrases that linger or draw pictures in readers’ minds, and the choice of words used seems accurate, natural, and not forced.
- ☐ **SENSORY DETAILS:** The paragraph includes details that appeal to three or more of the five senses (taste, touch, smell, sound, and/or sight).
- ☐ **MECHANICS AND GRAMMAR:** The paragraph has no errors in punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.

More Writing Tools: The following tools will help your writing come to life. Please challenge yourself to use all four.

- ☐ ***Simile:*** *a comparison of two unlike things that uses like or as.*
Example: The English assignments are as fun as a day at the beach.
- ☐ ***Metaphor:*** *a comparison that turns one thing into another (using a form of the verb “to be.”)*
Example: The English assignments are a fun day at the beach.
- ☐ ***Personification:*** *giving human qualities to an animal, object, or idea.*
Example: The northern wind whispered her secrets to me.
- ☐ ***Onomatopoeia:*** *“sound effect” words, words that sound like what they mean.*
Example: When we were camping in the Little Yosemite campground, the rustling leaves kept me awake all night.

Some reminders: You are painting a picture with words.
SHOW DON’T TELL! “Wow” your readers!
Have Fun!