

DESCRIPTION PARAGRAPHS

Describe how something / someone looks, feels, smells, tastes and sounds. The key to writing a good description paragraph is to use: 1) space order transitions, and 2) specific details

I. ORGANIZATION

A. SPACE-ORDER ORGANIZATION - Using space to put sentences in meaningful order

- top to bottom
- right to left
- far to near
- outside to inside
- bottom to top
- left to right
- near to far
- inside to outside

B. SPECIFIC DETAILS - When describing a person, place, or a thing, you are painting a picture with words by being very specific & exact. Your details will ALWAYS directly relate to your topic sentence.

II. SENTENCE STRUCTURE - PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES IN TIME/SPACE ORDER

A. PURPOSE - In description paragraphs, prepositional phrases illustrate time & space order. Thus, they show the reader when & where the people or objects being described are located.

B. POSITION - Prepositional phrases of time & location are flexible in that they can be located at the *beginning*, *middle*, or *end* of the sentence.

1. You MUST put a comma after a prepositional phrase that comes at the beginning of a sentence.
2. When a sentence contains ONLY a subject (S), verb (V), and prepositional phrase (PP), moving the PP results in the following word order with NO need for a comma:

PP + VERB + SUBJECT

3. Only prepositional phrases that tell a TIME or LOCATION can be moved.