### **Basic 5-Paragraph Descriptive Essay Outline Template**

(Fill in every section before drafting your essay)

## I. Introduction Paragraph

# **Hook (1–2 sentences)**

Start with a vivid sensory detail, striking image, surprising statement, or brief moment that pulls the reader in.

Hook:

Describe the very first thing a reader would notice.

Example starter cues:

- A powerful smell, sound, or visual
- An unexpected comparison
- A brief scene frozen in time

Write here:

## Context (2–3 sentences)

Provide background information so the reader understands what you're describing and why it matters.

Context may include:

- What the subject is
- Where or when you encounter it
- Your relationship to it
- Why this moment/place/person is significant

#### **Thesis Statement (1 sentence)**

State the **dominant impression** — the overall feeling, mood, or essential quality you want the reader to understand.

Thesis formula: [Subject] + [strong descriptive verb] + [central impression]					
Example: "My grandfather's workshop feels like a living museum where patience, tradition, and quiet craftsmanship coexist."					
Write here:					
II. Body Paragraph 1 — First Major Aspect					
<b>Topic Sentence (1 sentence)</b> Introduce the first key aspect you will describe and clearly link it to your dominant impression.					
Topic sentence should answer: "What part of my subject am I focusing on here?"					
Write here:					
Supporting Details (4–6 sentences) Develop this aspect using specific sensory details.					
Include:					
• What it looks like (color, size, shape, movement)					
• What it sounds like					
• What it smells like					
• What it feels like (texture, temperature)					
• Concrete examples (not vague adjectives)					
Write notes/details here:					

Connection to Thesis (1 sentence)
Explain how these details support your dominant impression.

Write here:

III. Body Paragraph 2 — Second Major Aspect	
Topic Sentence (1 sentence)	
Introduce a new aspect of the subject.	
Write here:	
Supporting Details (4–6 sentences)  Describe this aspect in depth using different sensory details than Paragraph 1.	
Consider focusing on:	
Behavior or activity	
<ul> <li>Sounds and smells</li> </ul>	
Movement or rhythm	
• Interaction with surroundings	
Write notes/details here:	
Connection to Thesis (1 sentence)	
Show how this aspect deepens or reinforces your main idea.	
Write here:	
IV. Body Paragraph 3 — Third Major Aspect	
<b>Topic Sentence (1 sentence)</b>	
Introduce the final major aspect, often emotional impact or overall effect.	
Write here:	

• Emotional response it creates			
• Changes it causes			
<ul><li>Meaning it holds</li><li>Why it stands out from similar things</li></ul>			
Connection to Thesis (1 sentence) Clearly tie this effect back to your dominant impression.			
Write here:			
V. Conclusion Paragraph			
Restated Thesis (1 sentence)			
Reword your thesis using different language.			
Write here:			
Synthesis of Key Details (2–3 sentences)			
Briefly revisit your strongest images or sensations.			
Combine details rather than listing them again.			
Write here:			

**Supporting Details (4–6 sentences)** 

**Final Reflection or Insight (1 sentence)** 

End with a lasting thought, realization, or broader meaning.

Possible angles:

Focus on how the subject influences people, emotions, or atmosphere.

Ask	yourse]	lf:

"Why should this subject stay with the reader?"

Write here:

# **✓** Checklist Before Drafting

- Each body paragraph supports the thesis
- Sensory details are balanced (not all visual)
- No paragraph overlaps another's focus
- Every paragraph has a clear purpose