

Descriptive Writing Self-Editing Checklist (College Level)

Focus & Thesis

- The essay has a clear controlling impression
- The thesis states both subject and significance
- All paragraphs support the central impression

Organization & Structure

- The essay follows a clear organizational pattern (spatial, chronological, emotional)
- Each paragraph has a focused purpose
- Transitions guide the reader smoothly

Sensory Detail & Description

- Strong sensory details are used instead of general statements
- Details appeal to multiple senses where appropriate
- Description shows meaning rather than listing features

Language & Style

- Word choice is vivid, precise, and concrete
- Figurative language enhances meaning without overuse
- Tone is consistent throughout the essay

Clarity & Revision

- Unnecessary or repetitive details have been removed
- Sentences vary in length and structure
- Passive voice and weak verbs have been revised

Grammar & Mechanics

- Sentences are complete and grammatically correct
- Punctuation and spelling are accurate
- Formatting meets assignment guidelines

Final Readiness

- The conclusion reinforces the controlling impression
- The essay ends with a strong final image or insight

■ The essay is ready for submission or publication