

Scoring Model for Description

Score 4

This writer presents a clearly focused description with effective details and rich sensory language.

Strong Points:

1. Powerful opening paragraph
2. Fully elaborated, memorable details
3. Rich sensory images and figurative language
4. Effective organization
5. Good sentence variety

Our Tree

Green flows everywhere in our backyard until it hits the maple tree that sizzles in the sun and overpowers everything around it. Even though the tree grows high into the sky, its tangled limbs and stiff base are cemented in the ground by muscular roots. The maple stands alone next to a swamp. The two sit so close together they're like the best of friends. A sleepy green hill makes the final member of the group. With the tangled maple as leader, this team borders our land and separates us from our neighbors.

The bark of the maple is a surprise the moment you touch it—a combination of bumpy and smooth. Because another tree leans on it, all the branches explode from one side, leaving the other side bare. They look as though they want to escape from the other trees.

From the branches, blazing red and fiery orange leaves pop out everywhere, and behind them, pale green and sunshine yellow leaves fill in the rest of the tree. Here and there dead brown leaves mingle with the others to remind us of what is in store. Already the leaves are falling as the air grows colder and winter draws near. The tree will soon be bare, but for now it burns the ground and lightens the sky for everyone to see.

Scoring Model for Description

Score 3

This writer presents a well-organized, memorable description with interesting details.

Strong Points:

1. Effective organization
2. Interesting details

Problem Points:

1. Limited sensory language
2. Few visual details
3. Limited vocabulary
4. Sentence structure errors

A Work of Art

For generations, the women in my family kept a quilt. The quilt was kept in the third house of the Morris family in Denver. The quilt was priceless, and everybody admired it.

My great, great, great, great . . . great grandmother started it with a first patch. The first patch that she sewed was a star. She later passed the work to her daughter, and her daughter passed it to her daughter, and so on.

When I first saw the quilt, I was seven years old. I was so happy I cried. I was stunned with joy as were my mom and dad. They had seen the quilt before, but my sister has never seen it because she was born after we moved away.

The quilt had over 350 patches of all different materials and different pictures. Each patch represented a story of something that happened during that time.

My aunt's house held the quilt, she was the oldest and most trusted member of the family. She took very good care of the quilt. It was kept in a glass case with a lock on it. The glass was hard to break. My aunt had a great pride and protected it very well.

When we left Denver, the quilt was still at my aunt's. Today I have no idea where it is. It could be with her still, or it could be somewhere else. I hope it is still with her so that, when I go back to Colorado I can see it, and if I have a daughter my daughter can make a patch.

Scoring Model for Description

Score 2

This writer presents a disorganized description with limited elaboration; its strong points are outweighed by its problem points.

Strong Points:

1. Good visual details
2. Simple sentence structures

Problem Points:

1. Poor organization
2. Distracting grammatical errors
3. Uninteresting word choices
4. Spelling errors
5. Limited elaboration
6. No introduction; abrupt ending

The Dress for Me

First, in every weding, you need to decide on your wedding dress. My dream weding dress has beeds all over the train and the gown and the top part of the gown has a design of waves moving and the train of the gown has a little design on the end of it. The vail the part of the dress that goes over your head sits on your head like a crown and then the rest of it goes down the back of your head. On the gown there is also embroderie. Then the part of the vail that sits on your forehead is lined with lace, or beeds that look like pearls, and with leaves that hock into your hair. The dress will be long with a train that goes way back. I will have a flower girl hold it. That is what my weding dress would look like.

Scoring Model for Description

Score 1

This writer's attempts to write an effective description are unsuccessful.

Problem Points:

1. Flat language
2. Lack of sensory details and figurative language
3. Simplistic sentence structure
4. Distracting errors of grammar, usage, spelling, and punctuation
5. No introduction or conclusion

My Tree

Deep in the woods behind my house there it Stands the tall, thin Oak tree! My tree lives next to 3 other oak trees, 2 pine trees and a big rock lays between 2 of the oak trees. My tree is surrounded by grass and weeds. My tree is in a gully like type thing. My tree is all differant sizes and shapes, it goes left, right, left, and then right again. Its long and Skiny.