Al-Mustaqbal Uni.

Department of English Language

3r year /Essay & letter writing

Lecture 2

Steps to write descriptive essay

1. Choose a topic.

You can write about someone that you know or a fictional character from a story or a book. You can write about a place or a thing. Choose a topic that you have enough details for it.

2. Brainstorm your ideas

Using your five senses will help you structure your essay and remind you to include all the sensory details. Write down as many details that you can think of for the topic based on each sense.

3. Start writing

*The first paragraph/ Introduction*

It is the first paragraph and you need to attract the reader’s attention with the hook. You can start your introduction with an interesting fact about your topic. You can always share a humorous short story that captures your audience.

E.g., “it was the day I exploded with laughter”

The reader will be curious to know about that day. After writing the hook you can include some background about your topic.

*The second paragraph*

It describes your topic in detail. Use the sensory details you brainstormed earlier in complete and meaningful sentences. Use show not tell techniques and figurative language. A good descriptive writing is always organized, if you are describing a place or an event try to get a very clear picture of the topic in your mind. Choose a wide angle shot that means describe your topic in general then zoom and take a close –up picture to further describe your topic. When describing a person for example you might begin with a physical description followed by how that person acts and feels.

*The last paragraph /conclusion*

It wraps up the whole essay, it simply ties all the thoughts together and do not be afraid to share your feelings about the topic but remember not to add any new details in the conclusion.