

Brainstorming for a Descriptive Paper

You've been asked to write a descriptive paper about a place in a certain mood. Before writing, go to the place you're writing about and brainstorm ideas. There are three things to consider.



First, keep in mind the mood you've chosen for your paper. For example, if you are writing about a forest in a happy mood, you might describe the trees as dancing in the wind. If you've chosen a sad mood, those same trees might be writhing in pain. If a creepy mood is more your style, the trees could seem ominous in the way they blot out the sun.

Next, remember that we have five senses, not just our sense of sight. Attend carefully to what you can hear, feel, smell, and possibly even taste. Be as detailed as you can. To help you with this, this worksheet is divided into sections for the senses.

Finally, don't just put down a list of nouns and adjectives. Verbs can be crucial to powerful descriptions. Are your trees dancing, writhing, towering, drooping, whispering, welcoming, reaching out to you, or something else entirely? Don't limit yourself to single words, but feel free to include phrases or whole sentences. Also include any figurative language you can think of.

Your turn! Settle yourself comfortably in whatever setting you're going to write about. And brainstorm away. Feel free to use more paper than just this sheet.

My place: _____ My mood: _____

What I see: _____

What I hear: _____

What I feel: _____

What I smell: _____

What I taste: _____
