



Writing Descriptive and Narrative Paragraphs

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In this presentation, we'll discuss two kinds of writing:

- Descriptive
- Narrative

Descriptive writing describes something.

Narrative writing tells a story.



Descriptive Paragraphs

Using Sensory Details, Using Specific Language, Using Figurative Language

Using Sensory Details

Look at the following descriptive paragraph:

As you approach the front door, you travel along a winding walkway surrounded on either side by deep purple morning glories and red-orange tiger lilies. Just beyond are the smooth leaves and waxy blossoms of a magnolia in bloom; the lilac bush is out of sight around the side of the house, but its presence is carried on the spring breeze. The three wooden steps, all slightly different sizes, but worn to the same slick finish, creak loudly as you mount the porch.

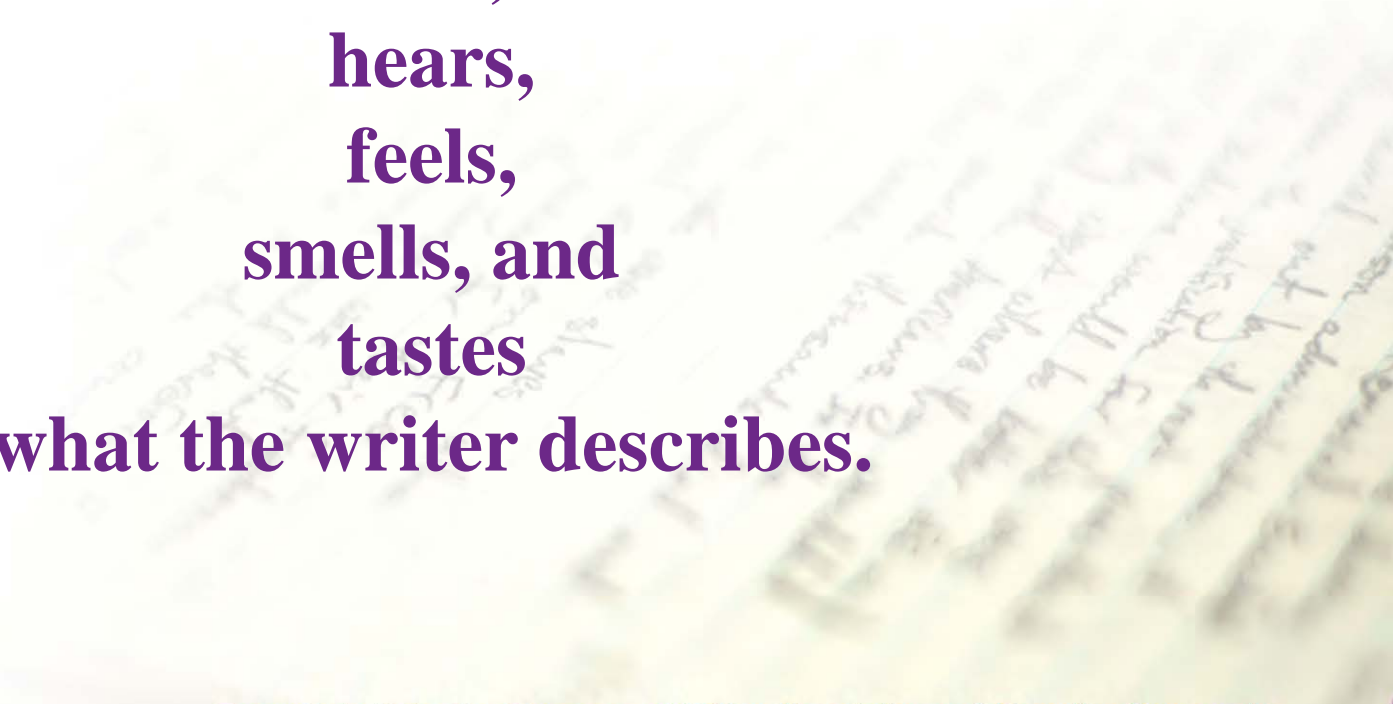
Which of your five senses does the author appeal to in this paragraph?



Using Sensory Details

Descriptive writing uses details from any or all of the five senses to convey the essence of something to the reader.

**The reader
sees,
hears,
feels,
smells, and
tastes
what the writer describes.**





Narrative Paragraphs

**Organizing Figurative Language, Tone,
Expanding Paragraphs by Asking
Questions**

Organizing Figurative Language

Organizing Figurative Language

Narrative writing tells a story. You have probably been telling stories as long as you have been communicating with other people. Without even thinking about it, you set the story up for your listener, describing the time, place, and your own involvement. Maybe the story is about something that happened to you, or maybe it's about something that happened to a person you don't even know.

Organizing Figurative Language

When you are writing a narrative paragraph, you have to make the same decisions as you would if you were telling a story aloud.

First, how will your story be organized? Will it start in the present and then move to the past, or will it start in the past and move forward? You must decide on the organization of **time** in the story.

Organizing Figurative Language

The **spatial organization** (having to do with space) is also important.

If you're describing an event, how do you want your reader to see it? Will the action be seen from your point of view or someone else's?

Do you want to start with a broad scene and zoom in, or do you want to take your reader on a walk across the landscape?

What other things might you consider when deciding the organization of your narrative paragraph?