

#4 DESCRIPTION OF MY FRIEND

SKILL: DESCRIPTION

It may take you four days to learn to:

1. Organize what you will describe
2. Describe in sentences what a friend looks like
3. Have your parent read your paper with you
4. Rewrite the parts you and your parent feel can be improved

PREWRITING

Day One:

This exercise will give you a chance to write about one of your friends. The first thing you'll have to do is make a list of the characteristics your friend has. (*what he/she looks and acts like*) This list should include:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Height | 5. Activities |
| 2. Weight | A. Hobbies |
| 3. Color | B. School work |
| A. Skin | C. Sports |
| B. Hair | D. TV programs |
| C. Eyes | 6. The things you like best |
| 4. Speech | about this person |
| A. Pitch of voice | |
| B. Favorite expressions | |
| C. Loudness | |

Make yourself a form like the one below if it will help you.

1. **Height:** _____ 2. **Weight:** _____ 3. **Color:** A. Skin: _____ B. Hair: _____ C. Eyes: _____

4. **Speech:** A. Pitch: _____ B. Expressions: 1) _____

2.) _____ 3) _____

C. Loudness: _____

5. **Activities:** A: Hobbies: _____

B. School work: _____ C. TV programs: _____

6. The **things I like** about this person: _____

WRITING

Days Two and Three:

Once you have a list of characteristics you can write about, you'll have to introduce your friend to your reader. We'll call this part of your paper the **introduction**.

This **introduction** should include your friend's:

1. Name
2. Grade
3. Address (This should be both town and state.)

This introduction might read like this: (The three points in the above list are numbered in this example only to show you where the three pieces of information came from.)

(1) Janet Brown is one of my best friends in the (2) tenth grade. Janet lives near my house on (3) Elm Street in St. Louis.

Set up your introduction on other paper to be like this sample:

INTRODUCTION (Your introduction will not have a title.)

Hint: Remember Dick and Jane writing? Check for it.

In the body of your paper you'll tell about your friend. There should be at least two sentences for each of the items on the list you just wrote. If your list is like my suggested list, you should have **at least** two sentences about your friend's **height**. Then there should be **at least** two sentences about your friend's **weight**, then at least two or more about **color**.

You might want to review exercise #2 where you learned to write with detail.

You should **use as much detail** in your description as you can. It would be good if you were to **use examples**. When you tell about your friend's eyes, you should do more than say just that they're blue or brown. Tell how your friend **uses** her eyes. This might read like this:

When Janet is thinking, her brown eyes get big and round, and then she half closes them. When this happens, I know she is thinking of something that she likes very much.

When you tell about your friend's hair, you should say more than that it's brown. You should give details about how it's cut and what your friend does with it:

John's hair is longer than his mother would like it to be, but John likes it long. He is always pushing it out of his face with his fingers. He has a lot of trouble with it when we play ball.

When you write about what your friend's speech is like, it might be good to use examples to show your reader how your friend talks. It can read like this:

Bill is a little shy. When someone asks him a question, he answers in a very low voice. Even when he knows the answer, sometimes he doesn't say it. But when we're playing ball, it changes. Then it is as loud as mine.

It would be good if you write only nice things about your friend. Your paper may be read by other people and you wouldn't want to hurt your friend's feelings. When you write your paper, be sure to include the things that are shown on the following list and the **outline** on the next page.

1. Put your name in the top right corner of the page.
2. Put a title on the first line. It might be: *My Friend*. (Notice the capital letters and that there are no quotation marks. This is because it is your title.)
3. Skip the first line after the title
4. Write your introduction (Do not skip any other lines.)
5. Write the description of your friend using the lists you have created.

Hint: Remember to put detail in your sentences.

When you feel that your paper is finished, check each part of it against the listing on page 20 to make sure you have included all the parts in your finished paper and that they are in the right place.

Day Four:

Parts of your paper probably have been proofread by you and your parent many times. Write the final copy and check it again.

Fill out the “Record of Progress” on the next page. I recommend you now take a week off from writing and concentrate on reading and discussing ideas with your parents.

RECORD OF PROGRESS

Name: _____ Date: _____

Exercise #4 DESCRIPTION OF MY FRIEND

This is the best sentence I wrote this week.

This mistake I made this week and I will not make it next week.

This is the sentence that had this mistake in it.

This is the sentence again showing how I fixed this mistake.

Comments: