

Descriptive Report Writing Assignment

One of the writing requirements for all grade 8 students is a descriptive report. The purpose of this kind of report is to present your reader with factual information on a topic. Descriptive reports require the evaluation of research - assessing what others have written about a particular topic. Reports do not focus on personal opinion and should not include the personal pronoun "I."

Your task: (Chose only one)

1. Research a person of significance. This person should be someone who has contributed something of importance to society or history and has become famous because of it. Then create a well written 5 paragraph report about the person you have chosen.
2. Research an unusual animal. This animal should not be your familiar cat, dog, or goldfish, but a species people may not be familiar with. Report your findings in a well written, five paragraph report. You could include things such as appearance, diet, habitat, predators, or special adaptations that make your animal unique.

Requirements:

- Verify your topic with me before beginning
- Complete a graphic organizer/outline
- Revise and edit your rough draft
- Use at least three sources of information and list them in a bibliography
- MLA format (no title page please)
- Good copy typed, 1.5 spacing, size 12 or 14 font in Times New Roman, Arial, or Calibri

You will be evaluated using the rubric provided. This rubric is very similar to the one used to evaluate the writing portion of your ELPA in grade 9. Please submit your best work.

Your report is due _____

Descriptive Report Rubric

Name: _____ Class: _____

	Weak (1)	Basic (2)	Appropriate (3)	Strong (4)
Content/Ideas				
Writing is focused; details are relevant, well researched and support main idea.				
Organization				
Introduction has a hook and lets the reader know what the essay will be about.				
Uses transitions between and within paragraphs to connect ideas.				
Has an appropriate conclusion that sums up main ideas.				
A bibliography is included with at least three sources and is formatted correctly.				
Proper MLA format.				
Word Choice				
Includes interesting words and subject-specific language, figurative language and words to show comparisons (as tall as), definitions (are called), classification (belong to).				
Voice				
Writing attempts to make the reader interested in the topic and create strong feeling, energy, and individuality.				
Sentence Structure				
Includes different kinds of sentences – simple, compound, complex, and a variety of beginnings to make the writing flow.				
Conventions				
Uses correct spelling, proper grammar (verb tenses, pronouns, contractions, plurals) and punctuation.				