

## WRITE



### Descriptive essay

Ask anyone to name his or her favorite wild animal. Some people will choose the most dangerous ones, like lions and tigers. But it is also true that many people will choose the Giant Panda Bear as their favorite animal. It is very different from other large wild animals. Why are pandas so appealing? *Scientists think that the panda is popular because of its appearance.*

*Although pandas are a type of bear, they don't look like other bears.* They have large heads that are covered with white fur, except for their eyes and ears, which are black. While adult pandas weigh up to 350 pounds, cubs weigh only three to five ounces at birth. This is only 1/900th of the mother's weight! Throughout their lives, pandas look cuddly and soft.

*The panda's appearance has made it one of the most popular animals in the world.* In the past, China has given other countries pandas as a sign of friendship. Organizations use the image of the panda to encourage the protection of wild animals and promote world peace.

#### INTRODUCTION:

In a descriptive essay, the thesis statement shows what the writer will explain in the essay. The thesis statement also shows how the writer will organize and present the explanation. The thesis statement guides both the reader and the writer.

Topic: Favorite wild animal

Thesis statement: **Scientists think that the panda is popular because of its appearance.**

#### BODY:

The topic of the body paragraph should relate to the thesis statement.

Topic: Panda's appearance

Topic sentence: *Although pandas are a type of bear, they don't look like other bears.*

Supporting sentences provide examples and details. These sentences describe the ways that pandas look different from other bears.

#### CONCLUSION:

Rewrite the thesis statement using different words: *The panda's appearance has made it one of the most popular animals in the world.*

Add some interesting information related to the thesis: Organizations use image of the panda to encourage the protection of wild animals and promote world peace.

## PRACTICE 1

### Thesis statements

Add a thesis statement to the introduction below.

EX: The New Year celebration is a special holiday for many cultures. People celebrate the New Year at different times and in many different ways around the world. In the United States the New Year is celebrated on the night of December 31st, which is called New Year's Eve. On this night, people have parties in their houses, or they go to restaurants or clubs with their friends. At midnight, everyone hugs and kisses each other to welcome the New Year. **New Year's Eve is my favorite holiday because I enjoy celebrating the good things of the old year and the possibilities of the New Year.**

1. Everyone has a favorite city. Some people say their favorite city is the city they live in. But other people choose the best place they have gone on vacation. **My favorite city is \_\_\_\_\_**  
**because \_\_\_\_\_**  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Food is an important part of culture and tradition. Some foods are eaten every day, but other foods are only eaten for special holidays or celebrations.  
\_\_\_\_\_ (name of food) **is/are an important part of my culture because \_\_\_\_\_**  
\_\_\_\_\_

## PRACTICE 2

### A three paragraph essay

#### *EXERCISE – Getting started*

Part I. Pair up. List adjectives to describe cities around the world. Part II. Choose the city you will describe in your essay. Look at the list you made for Part I. Circle the adjectives and hyphenated modifiers you will use to describe your city.

**A. Organize your essay.**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Thesis statement: (state your favorite city and one reason why you like it)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**BODY:**

Topic Sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Supporting Sentences: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**CONCLUSION:**

Rewrite thesis statement using different words: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Add some interesting information related to the thesis \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**B. Write the final draft of your essay. Include adjectives and hyphenated modifiers to describe your favorite city. Then correct the spelling, punctuation, and grammar.**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]

**C. FINAL DRAFT CHECKLIST: Circle your answer to the questions.**

- |  |     |    |
|--|-----|----|
| 1. Does your essay have an introduction, body, and conclusion?                             | YES | NO |
| 2. Does the introduction have a thesis statement that shows what you explain in the essay? | YES | NO |
| 3. Does the body paragraph relate to the thesis statement?                                 | YES | NO |
| 4. Does it include examples and details that support the topic?                            | YES | NO |
| 5. Does the conclusion restate the thesis statement in a new way?                          | YES | NO |
| 6. Did you use adjectives and hyphenated modifiers to describe your favorite city?         | YES | NO |

**D. Pair up. Review your partner's essay and review the checklist.**