

## Planning a Descriptive Paragraph

Complete the following items to plan for writing your descriptive paragraph about a rock or other item in the rock cycle.

1. Read the following chart listing rocks and items in the rock cycle. Choose one that will be the focus of your paragraph and type it on the line following the chart.

| Rock Type        | Characteristics   |
|------------------|---|
| magma            | partially melted rock in the earth's mantle; very hot   |
| igneous rock     | <b>1.</b> formed when magma cools and becomes solid; the most common type of rock; smooth and shiny (obsidian) or dark colored (basalt);<br><b>2.</b> formed when magma cools below the Earth's surface; large grains (granite) |
| lava             | red-hot melted rock that has erupted above Earth's crust from deep underground; flows down the side of an active volcano  |
| metamorphic rock | forms when sedimentary rocks are exposed to extreme heat and pressure; hard; found deep in Earth's crust; marble is a metamorphic rock  |
| sediments        | tiny bits of rock and sand combined with fragments of once-living things  |
| sedimentary rock | made of tiny pieces of rocks, sand, and once-living things; forms layers that over time become compressed into rock; easily broken; sometimes contains fossils (limestone)  |

Paragraph Focus:

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2. Give the item a first and last name. Consider using the rock or item name as part of the name. For example, you might use *Igneous Isaac*. Be creative! Type the name on the line.

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3. Think about the characteristics of your item. Complete the sentences below:

My surface feels like:

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I look like:

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I form when:

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4. Use the following lines to type two more details you will include in your paragraph.

5. Type the last sentence of your paragraph. Consider using a vivid image, a funny piece of dialogue, a question, or a statement that engages the reader.