

English Language Arts Brunswick School Department
Grade 6
Descriptive Writing: Paragraphing

Essential Understandings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Effective writing has a developed topic, is organized, uses richness of language, and follows standard English conventions.
Essential Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How is a paragraph organized? ▪ How do writers make their writing vivid? ▪ What revision techniques and editing skills do good writers use?
Essential Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A paragraph is organized with topic sentence, supporting details, and a conclusion. ▪ Good writers use planning, drafting, revising, and editing to produce a well developed, organized and vivid paragraph. ▪ Writers use specific devices to make writing vivid.
Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Terms:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ paragraph, topic sentence, edit, revise, vivid, simile, sensory words, verb, adjective
Essential Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Write a paragraph with rich and vivid language. ▪ Generate a topic sentence. ▪ Write an organized and well developed paragraph that supports the topic sentence. ▪ Recognize the difference between editing (correcting errors in spelling, grammar, usage, and mechanics) and revising (adding, deleting, changing, or rearranging words and ideas to make the writing clear). ▪ Apply revision techniques <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ adding detail, word choice, deleting unnecessary words and ideas. ▪ Apply editing skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Complete sentences (noun, verb, subject, predicate) ○ Correct use of direct and indirect quotes ○ Consistent verb tense ○ Unified and correctly indented paragraphs ○ Correct spelling ○ Punctuation (end marks, comas, apostrophe) ○ Capitalization

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Related Maine Learning Results	<u>English Language Arts</u> <i>*** pending legislative approval of the 2007 revised Maine Learning Results</i>
Sample Lessons And Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discuss elements of a paragraph (chart what kids know). ▪ After discussing examples of “bad” paragraphs correct the errors. ▪ Brainstorm topics and points to support topics, discussing the similarity between the topic and supporting points. ▪ Discuss and practice concluding sentences, looking at actual paragraphs. ▪ Practice writing paragraphs as a class, with a partner, and individually. ▪ Discuss thesaurus usage to replace overused words. ▪ Using a thesaurus, work in groups to find synonyms for overused words (ex. big). ▪ Read aloud <u>The Ice Chest</u> as an example of descriptive language. ▪ Share samples of descriptive language. ▪ Using food, such as a cookie, brainstorm how each of the five senses are used; brainstorm words to describe the item; place words on “sensory chart”.
Sample Classroom Assessment Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Write a descriptive paragraph describing a favorite place. Focus on one specific piece of this place.
Sample Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Publications:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Reviser’s Toolbox</u> – Barry Lane
Technology Link	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ http://www.brunswick.k12.me.us/curriculum