

Elaboration Structure—Description

Definition: A Description “paints a picture” of your idea.

When to Use: Use this strategy when you want your reader to “see” your idea in all of its detailed glory.

Completion Checklist:

1. Does it support the idea in the topic sentence (without overlapping with the other topic sentences)?
2. Does it include specific details?

Length: 2-5 sentences.

In Context:

The elaboration describes the community center in detail

My neighborhood of the future would also include a community center. **This center will be a large, brightly lit building that has space for a plethora of activities. A glistening indoor swimming pool can host senior citizen water aerobics on one side while allowing teens to practice diving on the other end. The activity rooms will range in size and arrangement to be the perfect homes for quiet games of chess, lively line dancing, or even a documentary screening.** The citizens of my community will have free access to all of these activities.

Common transition words: imagine, as an illustration, to illustrate, for example, for instance

Samples:

- The current school uniform is a drab pairing of shapeless khaki pants and dull blue polo shirts. Accessorized with a brown belt and shoes, this paltry wardrobe selection is enough to put any student to sleep.
- For example, the chicken sandwiches are sometimes pink from being undercooked. The patty sits on a bed of wilted lettuce on a soggy bun. These sad sandwiches are paired with a small pile of cold fries and sometimes, if students are lucky, a plastic container of peaches in syrup.