

Describing a Special Place

Telling Others About a Place That You Enjoy

Project Summary: Each of us has a “getaway,” a special place where we like to go to relax, think, read, or just be alone. For some of us our special place is our bedroom, a clubhouse, or our backyard that we can visit most anytime. For others, a special place might be a relative’s house or a vacation spot that can be visited only on certain occasions. In this project you will write about your special place so that the reader knows what it is like there and why you like it.

Purpose: Your goal in this project is to give the reader enough information to understand what your getaway place is like and why it is special to you.

Writer’s Role: You will write as yourself, someone who knows this place well.

Audience: Your audience will be your classmates or anyone who is not familiar with the place you are describing.

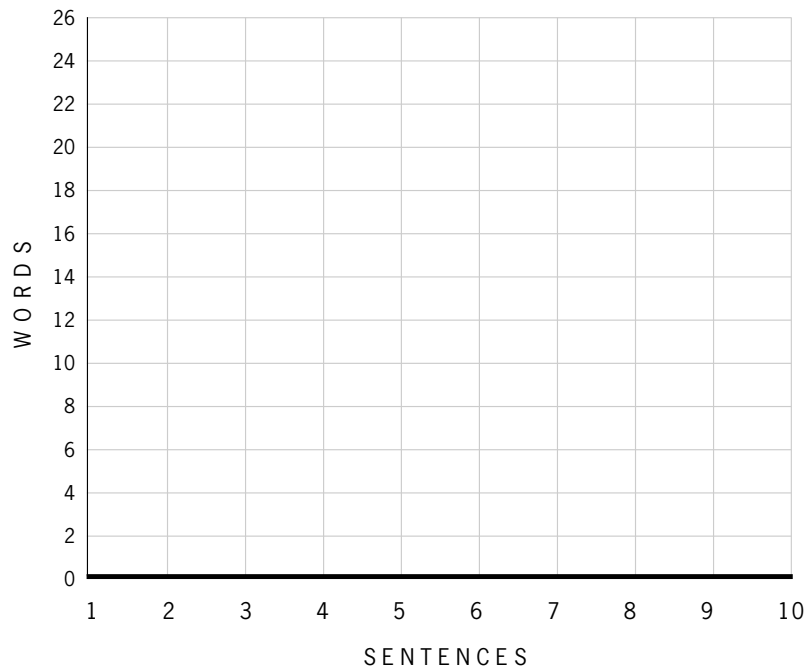
Form: You will write a vivid description of your getaway spot. Your description will be combined with those of your classmates to make up a class book, *Getaways*.

- Focus Correction Areas:**
1. Tell What and Why (tell what your special place is and explain why it is special to you)
 2. Eight or More Details (describe what your place looks like; tell what you do there; tell what it’s like by describing the things you see, hear, smell, and so on)
 3. Sentence Variety (vary your sentence beginnings and your sentence lengths)

Procedures: Before writing your description, you will do several activities in class:

- Type One Writing: Write six lines or more about a special place and what you do there.
- To help you better picture your special place and recall details that would help you describe it, take five minutes to draw a quick sketch of your place. In your sketch, include yourself in the drawing doing something that you often do there.
- Now include more information by adding words to your writing or details to your sketch to answer these questions: Who else is at this place with you sometimes? What things can you see from here—either near or far? Are there sounds or smells there that would help describe it? What other things do you do there?
- Referring to your “memory map” (your Type One Writing plus your sketch) for ideas, draft your description.
- Read your draft in a one-foot voice, and make any changes you feel will improve your description.
- Work with a partner, and get feedback on your description; use the Sentence Variety Worksheet to see how varied your sentences are. First list the first words of your sentences, and then graph the lengths of your sentences.
- Write a second draft with all your improvements.

Graphs for Sentence Length



Sentence Beginnings

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____
17. _____
18. _____
19. _____
20. _____