

Descriptive Or Not Descriptive? *That is the Question!*

Language Arts Focus

Content listings serve as a Table of "Content." It is important that the map writer or writers include descriptors concerning "what a student must know" so that map readers are properly informed and do not have to guess or read through the skill statement(s) to determine the content's key learning expectation.

Look at the sample content listings in the first column. Indicate if each one is a quality recording or needs revision in the second column. If in need of revision, write your suggested revision(s) in the last column.

| Content Statement Key Noun: Descriptor(s) <i>Noun Term: Focus or Focuses</i> | Quality Descriptors? <i>Write Yes, No, or Almost.</i> <i>Explain Reasoning.</i> | Not-Yet Quality Descriptors? <i>How would you recommend the Content be revised? Please write your revision.</i> |
|--|--|---|
| Main Idea: Summary and Support/4–6 Events | | |
| Nonfiction Text: Informational Instructions | | |
| Oral Presenting | | |
| Indefinite Pronouns: Agreement with Antecedents and Verbs | | |
| Author's Point of View | | |
| High-Frequency Vocabulary: 5 New Words | | |
| Character Conflict | | |
| Revising | | |
| Composition: Essay | | |

Descriptive, Or Not Descriptive? *That is the Question!*

Language Arts Focus Answer Key

| Content Statement Key Noun: Descriptor(s) <i>Noun Term: Focus(ses)</i> | Quality Description? <i>Yes, No, Almost Reasoning</i> | Not-Yet Quality Description? <i>Possible Recommendations</i> |
|--|---|---|
| Main Idea: Summary and Support/4–6 Events | Yes Noun: Descriptors | |
| Nonfiction Text: Informational Instructions | Yes ... Although some might say almost since it could be more detailed descriptor | Nonfiction Text: Informational Instructions/5-7 Steps |
| Oral Presenting | No... Written as a verb; no descriptor | Oral Presentation: Tone, Rate Oral Presentation: Props Incorporation |
| Indefinite Pronouns: Agreement with Antecedents and Verbs | Yes Noun: Descriptor | |
| Author's Point of View | Almost ... Needs a descriptor | Author's Point of View: Bias Author's Point of View: Third Person |
| High-Frequency Vocabulary: 5 New Words | Almost ... What are the five words? Five words are not too many to list | High-Frequency Vocabulary: Another, Through, Classify, Everything, Valuable |
| Character Conflict | Almost ... Needs descriptor | Character Conflict: Main and Support Characters |
| Revising | No... Written as a verb; no descriptor | Revision: Sentence Fluency Revision: Voice, Word Choice |
| Composition: Essay | Almost... Needs better descriptor for quality and clarification | Composition: 5-Paragraph Essay Fictional Composition: Comparative Essay Composition: Essay Preparation/Roman Numeral Outline |

The exercise and answer key is an excerpt from, *A Guide to Curriculum Mapping: Planning, Implementing, and Sustaining the Process*. Hale, 2008. Corwin Press.

Janet A. Hale www.CurriculumMapping101.com teachtucson@aol.com 520-241-8797