Descriptive Writing format

Name _____

Provide a collection of single-subject pictures (from calendars, Nat'l Geographic, etc.). Each student chooses one picture to describe. Below are 2 examples for each step.

<u>Step 1</u>: Write a simple subject and predicate in past tense.

Examples: *The waterfall rushed*. *The moose stood*.

<u>Step 2</u>: Write some adverbs to tell how, where, when about the verb.

Examples: The waterfall rushed rapidly down the mountain valley. The mose stood peacefully in the lake at dawn.

<u>Step 3</u>: Try a different word order.

Examples: Down the mountain valley, the waterfall rushed. At dawn, the moose stood peacefully in the lake.

Step 4: Write adjectives to describe the subject (size, color, kind, feeling).

Examples: For waterfall – cold, curving, narrow, running, thrashing, splashing For moose – tall, furry, bored, single, lonely, huge, Alaskan

Now add 2 of the adjectives to your sentence in front of your main subject.

Examples: The <u>narrow, curving</u> waterfall rushed down the mountain valley. The *lonely*, *Alaskan* moose stood peacefully in the lake at dawn.

<u>Step 4 – Part two:</u> Add 1 or 2 adjectives to describe the other noun in your sentence.

Example: The narrow, curving waterfall rushed down the <u>steep, rocky</u> mountain valley. OR The lonely, Alaskan moose stood peacefully in the <u>shallow</u> <u>reflective</u> lake at dawn.

<u>Step 5:</u> Use a thesaurus to replace any ordinary words in your sentence. You can also try to change the order again.

Example: Down the steep, rocky mountain valley, the narrow, curving waterfall *raced.* OR In the shallow, reflective lake, the lonely, Alaskan moose stood peacefully at dawn.

<u>Step 6:</u> Check your sentence for spelling, capitalization, punctuation. Proofread and write one final time. See how your sentence paints a picture!!!