

Head-to-Toe Description

RUBRIC

This is a DESCRIPTIVE mini-essay, not a story. It is critical to DESCRIBE the character using your CHARACTER MAP (that drawing you did) and your CHARACTER SHEET (handed out to you at the beginning of this unit).

Consider your character's SPECIES.

- Are they an elf with pointy ears and a serious face or a dwarf with a stout form and long beard?
- A tiefling or a dragonborn?
- A gnome or a halfling?

All of these have PHYSICAL QUALITIES DUE TO THEIR SPECIES.

And they are all described in detail in the [Basic Rules for D&D](#)

- We will explore this document together to find your character's species and to learn how to read the descriptions and what information you ought to include.

1) Include your character's ABILITIES in the description:

- For example: Mika the halfling wizard's grace in DEXTERITY and INTELLIGENCE was equally matched by her nearly non-existent STRENGTH. She also tires easily, showing her lack of CONSTITUTION.
- 2-3 of your character's best ABILITIES and 2-3 of your worst is fine for this description.

2) Include something that shows your character's CLASS. Think about what they carry that INDICATES their CLASS.

- For example, wizards carry books, scrolls, and component pouches and are often seen wearing robes or loose clothes.
- Warriors carry well-kept weapons and wear armor that may show nicks or dents.
- Clerics and Paladins are always adorned with holy symbols and may have a righteous or even a holier-than-thou look to them.
- Druids and Barbarians will have a wild look about them, perhaps looking a little, dare I say, feral.
- Rogues may have a shifty look in their eyes, wearing many daggers or a rapier.
- Monks often carry little more than they need to survive.

3) Consider your belongings in serious detail. Did your character get a sword from their grandfather, or their staff from a certain tree in a grove? Do any of your items tell a small story by themselves like a shield or a spell book? Imagine this like DESCRIBING someone to a person on the other end of the phone who they cannot see.

YOUR MISSION

Start at the very top of your character. DESCRIBE the head and work your way down the body.

Consider:

- Hair or any helmet, circlet, or tiara they may wear
- Their skin tone indicates their species (formerly 'race')
- Their ears, eyes, nose, and teeth
- Piercings, scars, tattoos, and defining marks on the face, neck, or head.
- The expression that they often wear on their face.

Describe the rest on the way down:

- Shoulders
- Chest
- Waist/belt
- Legs and feet

Maintain the flow as if a person's eyes are gazing down from top to bottom (don't jump around).

Don't forget to utilize SENTENCE VARIETY during your DESCRIPTIVE ESSAY.

Once you are satisfied with your writing, use the following color code to label your sentences:

Simple Sentence

Compound Sentence

Complex Sentence

Compound-Complex Sentence

Include at least one **metaphor**, **simile**, and example of **personification** somewhere in the description.

CHECKLIST

- ☐ I describe my character's species
- ☐ I describe my character's abilities and inabilities
- ☐ I describe my character's class including their appearance and the gear they carry that illustrate their class
- ☐ I describe all remaining belongings of my character
- ☐ I describe the physical appearance and features of my character
- ☐ I describe my character's appearance in order from top to bottom
- ☐ I included and highlighted all four sentence types
- ☐ I incorporated at least one metaphor, simile, and example of personification
- ☐ I have double, triple, and quadruple-checked my work for all writing mechanics
- ☐ I gave myself a hearty pat on the back for a job well done