

Responding to Open-Response Questions using the C-E-R Method

Before You Write...What is the Question Asking?

- Read the question carefully
- Circle or underline key words in the questions
- Restate the question in your own words



Claim

Your concise answer to the question. The rest of your response should PROVE your claim.



Evidence

This includes a direct quotation or a paraphrased detail from the text that PROVES your claim is correct. You need to CITE your evidence.



Reasoning

You need to EXPLAIN in your own words how your evidence proves that your claim is correct.

Sentence starters for introducing evidence:

These sentence starters can help you introduce your text evidence:

- **The author stated...** “insert direct quotation” (citation).
- **According to the text...** “insert direct quotation” (citation).
- **In the text it stated...** “insert direct quotation” (citation).
- **This example provides evidence that...** “insert direct quotation” (citation).
- **An example is ...** “insert direct quotation” (citation).
- **The graphic showed...** (insert explanation of graphic) (citation).
- **The illustration showed...** (insert explanation of illustration) (citation).

Sentence Starters for reasoning:

These sentence starters can help you begin your reasoning:

- **This shows...**
- **This means...**
- **This reveals...**
- **This expresses the idea...**
- **This implies...**
- **This suggests...**
- **This confirms...**
- **This highlights the difference between,...**
- **The author’s point is that...**
- **This example proves that...**

