

R.A.C.E.S.

A STRUCTURE FOR SHORT ARGUMENTATIVE WRITING RESPONSES (GRADES 6-12)

R STANDS FOR RESTATE THE QUESTION

Use the question stem as a sentence starter by moving the words around in the question to create a statement.

For example:

Question - Why should you use the RACES strategy?

Restate - You should use the RACES strategy because...

A STANDS FOR ANSWER THE QUESTION

- 1) Try not to use "I think.." or "In my opinion, ...". Instead state your opinion as a fact. It makes your argument stronger. Make it sound like your idea is obviously the right one.
- 2) Add a "because..." and give **three** reasons why you believe this is true.

For example:

In my opinion, you should use RACES.

vs.

Everyone should use RACES because it is structured, shows how to cite evidence, and is detailed.

C STANDS FOR CITE EVIDENCE

- 1) Prove it! Identify where the answer can be found by someone else. You may not say "I know this because I read the book."
- 2) Explain your quote/evidence.

Sources of Evidence:

- textbook
- article
- video
- class discussion
- reliable internet source
- speech

Sentence Starters for evidence:

- The text states, "_____" (pg#).
- On page _____, ...

- The picture...
- The graph...
- It can be observed that...
- From the text, it is obvious that...
- The author wrote, "_____".
- Based on what I read...
- According to the text, ...

Explain Quote Sentence Starters:

- This quote shows that...
- What the author means is...
- This is evidence that... because...

E STANDS FOR ELABORATE/EXPLAIN/EXTEND

- 1) Expand on your knowledge by broadening this topic and making connections, explaining how your thinking progressed, explaining the importance, giving examples, and acknowledging an opponent's viewpoint.
- 2) Explain your elaboration.

Sentence Starters:

- At first, _____, but now....
- This is similar to... (another text, a world issue, etc.)
- This is different than...
- Now it is time to consider...
- This is important because...
- For example, ...
- Nonetheless, ...
- Some people might think..., but ... because...
- Another question this raises is...

S STANDS FOR SUM IT UP

Wrap up your thoughts in a solid, relevant conclusion that summarizes your ideas.

Sentence Starters:

- In conclusion,...
- To sum up,...
- All in all, ...
- Finally,...
- Therefore,...