

Responding to Open-Response Questions using the CER Method



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



Reasoning



(Commentary)

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

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 narrator states that** "insert direct quotation" (p. ____).
- **(Insert name of character) says that** "insert direct quotation" (p. ____).
- **In paragraph ____**, the author argues that "insert direct quotation".
- **The author emphasizes that** "insert direct quotation" (p. ____).
- **On page ____**, the narrator claims that (insert paraphrased details).
- **In the passage**, (insert title of text), the author explains that "insert direct quotation" (pg. ____).

Sentence starters for reasoning

These sentence starters can help you begin your reasoning (commentary):

- **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...**