

# \* HOW TO WRITE CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE ANSWERS...

...and not lose your mind!

- \* Some people call them essay questions.
- \* They require you to write at least one paragraph.
- \* Sometimes you have to use old information in a new, creative way.

**\* What are constructed response questions?**

## This Is Just to Say - William Carlos Williams

I have eaten  
the plums  
that were in  
the icebox

and which  
you were probably  
saving  
for breakfast

Forgive me  
they were delicious  
so sweet  
and so cold

\* Carefully **read** the question.

\* Look for key words like

EXPLAIN

DESCRIBE

COMPARE

CONTRAST

DISCUSS

ANALYZE

\* Question: Analyze the tone of William Carlos Williams's poem "This is Just to Say."

**\*Danger! Danger!**

Never make a list for an answer  
to a constructed response  
question!

Now you're ready to begin your answer.

## **R**-Restate or reword question

- \* Reword question for topic sentence or thesis statement
- \* Include title and author of work being discussed

# \* Thesis statement example

Question: Analyze the tone of William Carlos Williams's poem "This is Just to Say."

Thesis statement: *In William Carlos Williams's poem "This is Just to Say," tone is a crucial clue in determining his sincerity.*

**R** - Restate/reword

# \* Answer the question...

*The word choice the author uses suggests that his attitude toward the apology was one of insincerity.*

# \*Cite:

Use evidence from the text to support your answer. Cite specific lines or details from the work.

*While the speaker does say “forgive me”, he turns around later in the third stanza and describes the plums as, “delicious” and “sweet and so cold.”*

**E**xplain- how your reasons support your answer.

*It is with the use of these specific words that the author reveals his tone of insincerity.*

*While he appears to be apologetic, he has no problem promoting the deliciousness of the grapes.*

# Summarize

Write an ending sentence that asserts your claim.  
You can start your last sentence by using these words:

In conclusion

As a result

Consequently

Therefore

*Therefore, his tone was insincere as it is apparent the speaker obviously enjoyed attempting to aggravate the owner of the grapes.*

Read your answer. Fix any mistakes in spelling, capitalization, grammar, and punctuation. Make sure all the letters in all the words are written clearly.

In William Carlos Williams's poem "This is Just to Say," tone is a crucial clue in determining the speaker's sincerity. The word choice the author uses suggests that his attitude toward the apology was one of insincerity. While the speaker does say "forgive me", he turns around later in the third stanza and describes the plums as, "delicious" and "sweet and so cold." It is with the use of these specific words that the author reveals his tone of insincerity. While he appears to be apologetic, he has no problem promoting the deliciousness of the grapes. Therefore, his tone was insincere as it is apparent the speaker obviously enjoyed attempting to aggravate the owner of the grapes

Criterion	5= Advanced	4=Nearly Advanced	3 = Proficient	2 = Basic
<b>R-Restate A- Answer</b>	Provides a <b><u>well-written</u></b> , accurate and comprehensive topic sentence with a <b><u>sharp controlling idea</u></b> that restates the question.	Provides a good topic sentence with a limited subject and a <b><u>clear controlling idea</u></b> .	Provides a topic sentence with a <b><u>general controlling idea</u></b> .	Topic sentence with a <b><u>vague controlling idea</u></b> .
<b>C- Citations from Text (Quotes)</b>	Cites <b><u>substantial, specific and well-chosen lines from the text</u></b> .	Cites <b><u>specific</u></b> evidence from the test that offers clear proof.	Cites <b><u>limited</u></b> but <b><u>relevant lines</u></b> from text as evidence.	Cites <b><u>insufficient, weak, or irrelevant lines</u></b> from the text as evidence.
<b>E- Explanation and Elaboration</b>	Provides <b><u>substantial and insightful elaboration or explanation</u></b> ; shows deep comprehension; <b><u>makes sophisticated connections</u></b>	Provides <b><u>considerable explanation</u></b> that shows some depth of thought.	Provides <b><u>relevant and satisfactory elaboration or explanation</u></b>	Exhibits mostly a <b><u>literal and / or surface level comprehension</u></b> ; <b><u>minor connections</u></b>
<b>Writing Skills/ Organization</b>	<b><u>Very smooth and logical organization. No errors in spelling and grammar</u></b> are present.	Mostly logical organization. <b><u>Transition words and phrases</u></b> are <b><u>used throughout</u></b> . <b><u>1-2 Spelling/Grammar errors</u></b> .	<b><u>Organization is apparent</u></b> , but flow is <b><u>not always smooth</u></b> . <b><u>3-5 spelling/grammar errors</u></b> .	<b><u>Inconsistent or choppy organization with more than 5 spelling/grammar errors</u></b> .