

# RACE

## Writing a GREAT Short Answer Response **Using Evidence**

Why use this: Using the RACE Method will help you to focus your response in a clear and concise manner. **It is not enough to simply answer the question.**

Readers and graders are looking for:

- evidence that you understand
- analysis (thinking)
- support for your answer with evidence from the readings
- clarity



a tip for OAA: Your space for answering is limited, so clear, concise answers with appropriate textual evidence will receive the best scores. Concise\* does NOT just mean short.

According to dictionary.com

**\*Concise: adjective**

expressing or covering much in few words; brief in form but comprehensive in scope



## RACE



### Writing a GREAT Short Answer Response!

1. **R**estate the question asked
2. **A**nswer (main idea)
3. **C**ite evidence from the text
4. **E**xplain and **E**laborate on your answer and the evidence

**C**ite evidence from the text means to return to the reading and find at least one quote, *direct* or *indirect*, which supports your answer. Direct quotes are often better and having both is best!

*Direct Quote*- A direct quote is a quote in which you copy an author's words directly - word for word. Direct quotes will be surrounded by quotation marks.

Example: "I couldn't laugh; I couldn't applaud; it filled me with bitterness to have others do it and to have people make a hero of Hicks and the people around him" (659).

*Indirect Quote* - An indirect quote is a quote in which you paraphrase - put into your own words - what the author is saying.

Example: Twain was unable to laugh or applaud, because he was so angry that Hicks could be mesmerized and he could not (659).

A good response will carefully analyze the text, offer textual evidence from the piece or pieces that will directly support your answer **and will explain how this evidence supports your answer.**

**E**xplain and **E**laborate -- Do not just say something is true, prove it. **Show how the evidence supports the answer; supply reasons your answer is correct.** In many cases, the difference between an A and a B as a grade is due to the effective use of supporting evidence.

## **How do you write an effective essay exam?**

1. Read through all the questions carefully.
2. Budget your time and decide which question(s) you will answer first.
3. Underline the key word(s) which tell you what to do for each question.
4. Choose an organizational pattern appropriate for each key word and plan your answers on scratch paper or in the margins.
5. Write your answers as quickly and as legibly as you can; do not take the time to recopy.
6. Begin each answer with one or two sentence thesis which summarizes your answer. If possible, phrase the statement so that it rephrases the question's essential terms into a statement (which therefore directly answers the essay question).
7. Support your thesis with specific references to the material you have studied.
8. Proofread your answer and correct errors in spelling and mechanics.

## **How do you write an effective essay exam?**

1. Read through all the questions carefully.
2. Budget your time and decide which question(s) you will answer first.
3. Underline the key word(s) which tell you what to do for each question.
4. Choose an organizational pattern appropriate for each key word and plan your answers on scratch paper or in the margins.
5. Write your answers as quickly and as legibly as you can; do not take the time to recopy.
6. Begin each answer with one or two sentence thesis which summarizes your answer. If possible, phrase the statement so that it rephrases the question's essential terms into a statement (which therefore directly answers the essay question).
7. Support your thesis with specific references to the material you have studied.
8. Proofread your answer and correct errors in spelling and mechanics.