

# Constructing Meaning in Constructed Response: The R.A.P.S. Way to Success!

Tools for the “Write Stuff”

Written Response Mnemonic Strategy

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# Standards

- ELACC7W4

Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

- ELACC7W9

Draw evidence from literary and informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

- ELACC7RI1

Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inference drawn from the text.

# Essential Question

What strategies can I use to write better constructed responses?



**Write  
On!**

# *What is a Constructed Response?*

- Short written response, which addresses a specific writing prompt or task
- Writing that requires the analysis of a document (informational or literary text)



**Write  
On!**

# Why Should We Write Constructed Responses?

- Every subject area has Literacy standards to support this task.

<http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Curriculum-and-Instruction/Documents/6-8%20literacy%20history,%20science,%20and%20technical%20subjects%20pdf.pdf>

- “Writing is a “threshold skill for both employment and promotion, particularly for salaried employees. Half the responding companies report that they take writing into consideration when hiring professional employees.”

Right Answer Writing, Cole

# The RAPS Way

- R=REWORD/RESTATE
- A=ANSWER (include author, genre, title)
- P=Expectation of PROOF (with explanations)
- S=SUM it up!

# The RAPS Way

- R=REWORD the topic

Restate the question with key words from the prompt.

# The RAPS Way

- A=ANSWER the question

Always “TAG” the text(s) you are referring to and lead into your answer.

Answer the question by way of a thesis statement.



# The RAPS Way

- P=Expectation of PROOF (2x)
  - Transition into evidence
  - Cite Evidence with clarity
  - Explain evidence with clarity
    - evidence
    - explain
    - transition
    - evidence
    - explain

# The RAPS Way

- S=SUM it up!

Summarize your response and  
bring it to a solid end

# Steps for Writing a CR

- 1) Analyze the writing prompt/task.
- 2) Read and annotate.
- 3) Use RAPS (or a semblance) with an organized brainstorming strategy
- 4) Proof/Edit

# Key Words in a Prompt and How to Answer Them

Terms	Meaning	Framework for Prewriting
Analyze	Separate into its parts	An ordered list framework containing steps
Compare	Examine, noting the similarities and differences	Venn Diagram to show differences of each with likeness in the center
Contrast	Examine, noting the differences only	T- chart to contrast left to right
Define	State a precise meaning	An ordered list
Discuss	Present background information with supporting or descriptive details	T chart with important factors on left, details on right
Describe	Convey an idea	Semantic web, subject in the middle, surrounded by numbered qualities
Evaluate	Place judgment, but support using details	T chart listing pros next to cons

# Key Words in a Prompt and How to Answer Them

Term	Meaning	Framework for Prewriting
Explain	Make clear, offer reason	T chart listing facts and supportive details
Give/provide	Offer facts related to topic	T chart using facts and supportive details
Review	Examine major elements again	Outline or list
Use	Do the task in a specific manner	Outline or list
Write	Usually requires a prompt	Outline or List

Source, Better Answers by Ardith Davis Cole

# Analyze the Prompt

Elements of a writing prompt.

- **Background Knowledge** (a small history or information for the reader)
- **Petition** (the question(s) that should be answered/addressed in the response)
- **Expectation of Proof** (the expectation of textual evidence)

# Writing Prompt



There is an old saying, “It takes a village to raise a child.” Every stakeholder (parents, teachers, administrators, community, and students) plays a vital role in the development and success of every student. In the past, it has been stated that for some schools parental involvement is extremely low, but parents should know how essential they are to the village. Explain how parental involvement can improve student motivation and success. What can parents do to support the teachers and students? Use evidence from *The Benefits of Parent Involvement: What Research Has to Say* to support your response.

# Writing Prompt (Background Knowledge)



There is an old saying, “It takes a village to raise a child.” Every stakeholder (parents, teachers, administrators, community, and students) plays a vital role in the development and success of every student. In the past, it has been stated that for some schools parental involvement is extremely low, but parents should know how essential they are to the village. Explain how parental involvement can improve student motivation and success? What can parents do to support the teachers and students? Use evidence from *The Benefits of Parent Involvement: What Research Has to Say* to support your response.



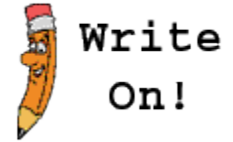
# Writing Prompt (Petition)



There is an old saying, “It takes a village to raise a child.” Every stakeholder (parents, teachers, administrators, community, and students) plays a vital role in the development and success of every student. In the past, it has been stated that for some schools parental involvement is extremely low, but parents should know how essential they are to the village. Explain how parental involvement can improve student motivation and success? What can parents do to support the teachers and students? Use evidence from *The Benefits of Parent Involvement: What Research Has to Say* to support your response.

# Writing Prompt

## (Expectation of Proof)



There is an old saying, “It takes a village to raise a child.” Every stakeholder (parents, teachers, administrators, community, and students) plays a vital role in the development and success of every student. In the past, it has been stated that for some schools parental involvement is extremely low, but parents should know how essential they are to the village. Explain how parental involvement can improve student motivation and success? What can parents do to support the teachers and students? Use evidence from *The Benefits of Parent Involvement: What Research Has to Say to support your response.*

# Your Turn

Now, you will annotate  
the article and  
write a constructed response.

If you wish, you may  
use the RACE Graphic Organizer,



# Why we teach?

- It is not just a great thing that we are teachers, we teach WRITING!

