



Constructed Response Strategy

R.A.C.E.S.



What is it?

An important skill in any class is to be able to form an opinion about a particular topic (whether it's a text, a discussion or a presentation) and be able to explain your reasoning using evidence and your own ideas.

“RACES” is a simple writing strategy that will help you to construct more thoughtful and thorough responses.

It is basically a guide or a “formula” that you follow to ensure that you are responding thoroughly.

1. Restate

Restate the question in the form of a topic sentence. Avoid using first person. You can end of the **first** part of the topic sentence with “because”.

For example: Yes, schools should have uniforms,
because...

2. Answer

This is the second part of the topic sentence. Here, students will answer all parts of the question.

Note: Restate and answer are all a part of your topic sentence.

For example: Yes, schools should have uniforms because it creates a sense of equality within the school.

3. Cite

Students cite examples from the text that support their answer, preferably with direct quotes. A good way to start this is to write, “For example, in the text it states that...” or “According to...”.

4. Explain/Extend

Students explain how their evidence supports their answer and add any connections they can make. This should be the longest section.

Answers the question, “so what?” Why is this important?

5. Summarize

Students write a concluding sentence. This should start with a transition word such as, “In conclusion...” or “To sum up”.

Sample RACES Response to Article

Yes, the post office is still valuable because it provides a secure way to communicate long-distances in the event of an issue with the digital communications system. In the article "Do we still need the post office?", the author writes, "the post office also provides a great back-up communications system if our digital communications were to fail". This quote highlights that the digital communications system that many people use is much less reliable than the post office. The digital world is under constant threat from viruses, email hacks, and large scale blackouts and the post office needs to remain in place as a backup system because it will be unaffected by a problem with the digital communications system. This is a significant issue because without the post office, a major complication with the digital communications system could mean an end to all long distance communications. A loss of long-distance communications without a reliable alternative could lead to a partial breakdown of society because the lack of connection would isolate people from others even in their own country and therefore cause a large upset within the population. The post office is an essential backup system provides a reliable and secure alternative to the fallible digital communications system.

Tech-savvy students easily fooled by bias, ads and fake news, a study says

Should there be laws that state that companies must clearly indicate advertisements?

How can teachers ensure that students are not easily fooled by bias in the media?

Is it the teacher's responsibility to ensure that students are not easily fooled by bias in the media?

Using Quotations in Writing

- Always introduce the quotation. For example: According to the author of the article, ... or John Smith, the author of the article, writes....
- After you introduce the quotation, use a comma before the quotation marks. For example: According to the author of the article, “[students] are often taught in schools how to comprehend a written passage.”
- Use quotation marks around the quote. Only include words directly taken from the source.