

Using RACER to Answer Open-Ended Questions:

What is RACER? It is an acronym that will help you remember how to properly answer Open-Ended Questions.

RACER stands for:



RESTATE the question or prompt in your own words. This should be your first or introduction sentence. **DO NOT** just rewrite the question and put a period at the end!!! **DO NOT** use the word "because" in this sentence and **DO NOT** begin answering the question yet!



ANSWER the question. Start elaborating and explaining in the second sentence.

Be sure to use transition words such as first, second, next, finally, etc. to show when you begin a new thought.



CITE: after you give your explanation, use examples from what you've read to support your answer. Look back at the text and find at least two details that support your opinion (your answer or the point you are trying to make).



EXAMPLES and ENDING: if you can, give EXAMPLES from your own life or from things going on in the world today (make connections) to support your answer. Make sure you END your paragraph with a closing sentence that will get the readers attention and wrap up your answer. **DO NOT** leave your answer without a proper ending. This is like forgetting to put the bread on your sandwich-all the good stuff will fall out and be a mess.



REMEMBER: reread your answer and check for any mistakes. This includes spelling, grammar, and punctuation. **DO NOT** start a sentence with words such as "AND", "BUT", "OR", "BECAUSE", or "SO". Use a separate paragraph to answer each question (one paragraph per bullet point).

A paragraph is a minimum of 5 sentences. NO EXCEPTIONS!!!

Following this format is a sure way to find yourself a winner at the finish line!!!

