Welcome!

Thank you...

1) for joining Part 2 of our Short Essay Writing Workshop
2) For sending me your essays!

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Session 1

- Personal Opinion/persuasion essay
- Learned the R.A.C.E.S. model

Session 2

- Opinion/persuasion essay that uses the R.A.C.E.S. model and cites evidence
- Checklists to help you write

Session 3

- Opinion/persuasion essay that uses the R.A.C.E.S. model and cites evidence
- More complex essays

Writing prompt: What is the best food to eat in the world and why? (last week – personal essay)

Restate the question (topic sentence)
Answer the question

R/A A hamburger is the best food in the world to eat because it is the perfect combination of ingredients.

Cite evidence or details to support your answer
Explain why the evidence or details support to your answer

C/E It starts with a hot, juicy burger patty fresh off the grill. You can choose a meat, fish or a vegetarian patty, whichever you like best, to make it taste just right!

C/E Adding cold lettuce, tomato, and onion toppings cools the sandwich and gives it good texture.

C/E Putting a piece of melted cheese on top intensifies the flavor of the overall sandwich.
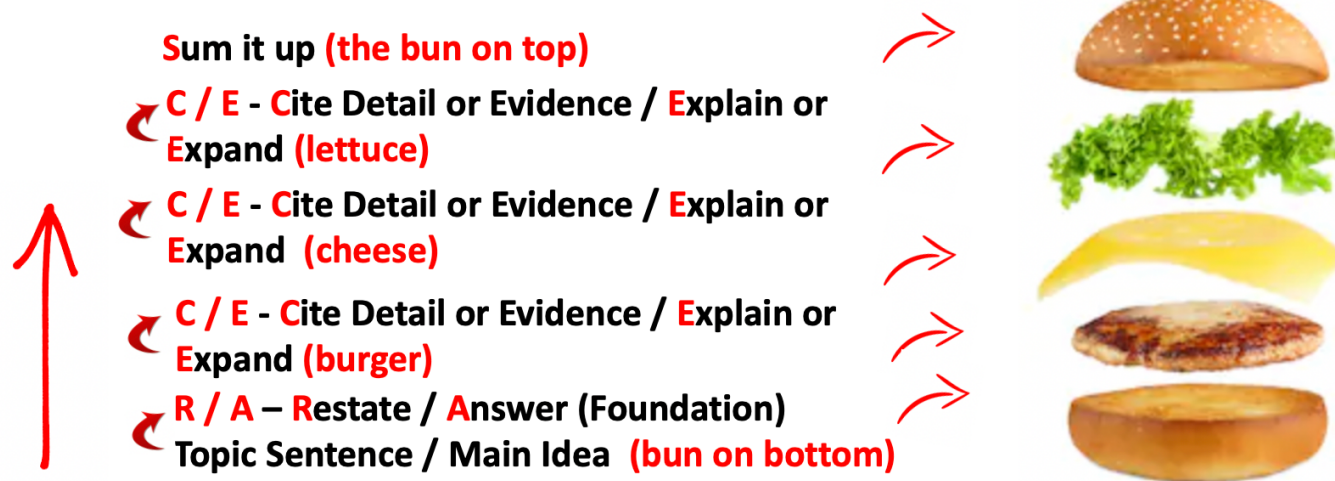
Sum it up (conclusion)

S As you can see, when you combine a soft bun with a grilled patty, vegetable toppings and cheese, you have created the best food in the world.

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Burger R.A.C.E.S.

Sum it up

Cite/**E**xplain x 3

Restate/**A**nswer

Sum it up **(the bun on top)**

C / E - Cite Detail or Evidence / **E**xplain or **E**xpand **(lettuce)**

C / E - Cite Detail or Evidence / **E**xplain or **E**xpand **(cheese)**

C / E - Cite Detail or Evidence / **E**xplain or **E**xpand **(burger)**

R / A – Restate / **A**nswer (Foundation)
Topic Sentence / Main Idea **(bun on bottom)**

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Writing Prompts From Teacher

- If you could live anywhere in the world, where would you live and why?

- If you won a million dollars, what would you choose to do with it?

- If you could be famous for something, what would it be and why?

R/A Topic Sentence

- If I could live anywhere in the world, I would live in Milan, Italy because that is the fashion capital of the world and I want to be a fashion designer.

- If I won a million dollars, I would choose to spend the money to help educate children around the world.

- If I could be famous for something, I would like to be a well-known Broadway performer because acting, singing and dancing are my passions.

(Middle of Essay)
C/E goes here

S Sum It Up

- **So as you can see**, Milan, Italy would be the perfect place for me to live so I can pursue my goal of becoming a fashion designer.

- **For these reasons**, I would spend my million-dollar lottery winnings to help educate children all over the planet!

- **In conclusion**, becoming a famous Broadway performer would be my dream come true because it would allow me to do my favorite thing every night: sing, dance and act!

- **Brainstorm** 1st – you'll have more ideas than material you can use.
- **Outline** 2nd – Make an outline of what you'll write the order of each point
- **Write** 3rd!
- **Tip** – Longer essays (over 6 sentences) – **indent** each paragraph; shorter answer essay – just indent the topic sentence.
- **Cite/Explain** – Try to keep EACH middle part of your essay (the C/E) focused on ONE idea (a common mistake I saw was not focusing your points).

Remember!

Passage (Your Source):

Little Miss Muffet sat on a tuffet, eating her curds and whey,
Along came a spider who sat down beside her,
and frightened Miss Muffet away.

Writing Prompt:

How did Miss Muffet feel when a spider came along and interrupted her meal? Cite 2 pieces of evidence that support your answer.

R/A Miss Muffet was afraid when the spider came along and interrupted her meal. C/E1 According to the passage, Miss Muffet was "frightened" when the spider sat down. Since the text actually describes her as feeling "frightened," we know she was afraid. C/E2 In addition, the last sentence says that Miss Muffet literally ran away upon seeing the spider. This supports the idea that Miss Muffet was afraid, as she would not have run away otherwise. S In conclusion, Miss Muffet was afraid when the spider came along and interrupted her meal.
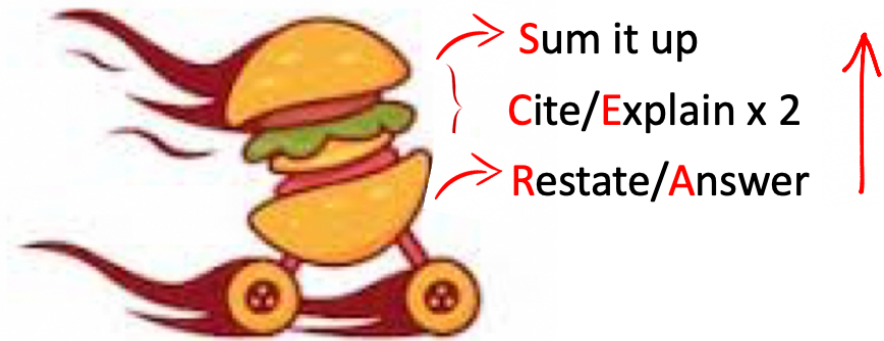
Sum it up
Cite/Explain x 2
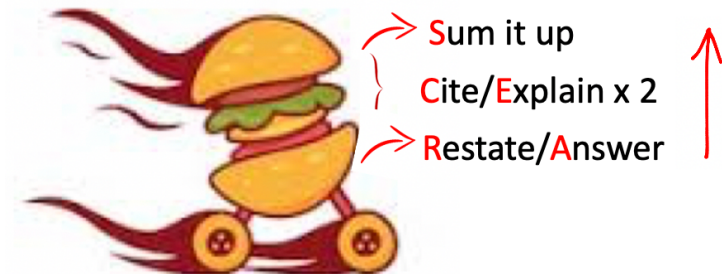Restate/Answer

The Hare and the Tortoise, by Aesop

There once was a speedy hare who bragged about how fast he could run. Tired of his boasting, Slow and Steady, the tortoise, challenged him to a race. Hare said, "What a joke! I could dance around you all day." "Stop boasting until you've beaten me, and not before," Slow and Steady said. The animals in the forest gathered to watch. Hare started running and was far ahead of the tortoise. Hare yelled back, "How does it feel to be such a loser!" Then he ran backwards and yelled more insults at the tortoise. Finally, he stretched out along the road and fell asleep thinking, "I've plenty of time to relax." Slow and Steady walked and walked. He never stopped until he crossed the finish line. The animals that were watching cheered so loudly, they woke Hare up. He stretched and yawned and began to run, but it was too late, Slow and Steady, the tortoise, had already crossed the finish line. The moral: Slow and steady wins the race!

Writing Prompt: Do you think the Hare or the Tortoise is wiser? Give 2 details from the text to support your answer.

C/E ➡️ Quote or summarize. Then Use your own words to explain.

R/A I believe the Tortoise is wiser than the Hare because he knows not to brag before you earn it and he understands that plodding along slowly and steadily can win a race. C/E1 According to the passage, the Tortoise told the Hare not to boast until he won the race, and not before. He knew that you never know who is going to win a race until it has been run. C/E2 In addition, when the Hare fell asleep, the Tortoise was smart. He kept moving and did not stop until he won the race. S These two actions by the Tortoise show that he is wiser than the Hare.

Sum it up
Cite/**E**xplain x 2
Restate/**A**nswer

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Sacagawea

Sacagawea was born in 1788 to the chief of the Shoshone tribe in Idaho. At the age of 12, she was kidnapped by an enemy tribe, the Hidatsa Indians. She was then sold to a French-Canadian trapper who made her his wife.

She and her husband lived in what is now North Dakota. In 1804 Meriwether Lewis and William Clark arrived. They were exploring the western lands of the United States. They also hoped to find a path to the Pacific Ocean. They asked Sacagawea to join them so that she could translate their English words into the Shoshone language. She was the only woman on the team of explorers.

On the journey, Sacagawea had her first baby. Even though she had to carry her son on the expedition, she was very helpful to Lewis and Clark. She knew how to find plants that they could eat as food. One time she was on a boat that started to sink, but she saved supplies and important papers. Later she helped Lewis and Clark buy horses from a tribe that spoke her language.

Writing Prompt: **What is your opinion of Sacagawea? What kind of person was she? Cite 3 pieces of evidence to support your opinion.**

Brainstorm Ideas
Kind of Person?
Helpful and resourceful, good person, kind, nice, unselfish, **brave**, courageous, smart, she didn't give up, dependable, persistent, level headed, responsible, honest, selfless

Evidence to support? Got kidnapped, only woman on team, separated from her family, had a baby very young, in a sinking boat, risked her life for the team, Worked hard to help strangers, carried her baby with her while helping, cared for other, married a stranger

Outline?
- R/A – Brave because at a young age, she endured hardships while helping strangers
- C/E Was kidnapped – married a stranger – scary
- C/E Only woman on the team
- C/E Helped others while risking her life
- S – In conclusion, Brave because at a young age, she endured hardships while helping strangers
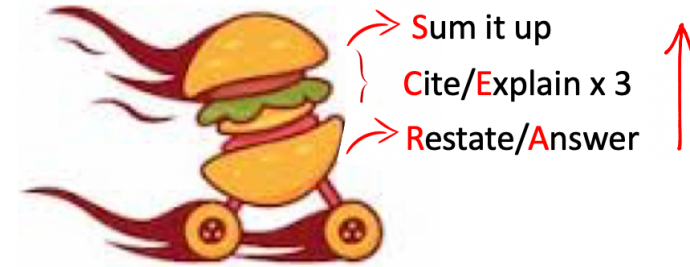
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Sum it up
Cite/**E**xplain x 3
Restate/**A**nswer

R/A In my opinion, Sacagawea was a brave person.

C/E1 The author tells us that she was kidnapped by her tribe's enemies at age 12. That must have been scary. But she kept going. This proves she was brave.

C/E2 According to the text, she handled many hardships at a young age. She was sold to a French-Canadian trapper who made her his wife at the age of 12. Six years later, she joined Lewis and Clark's expedition as the only woman in a team of explorers. She even had a baby on her journey. It must have taken great courage to handle so much difficulty at such a young age.

C/E3 Finally, she did many things to help Lewis and Clark. She found them food, saved their things from sinking on a boat, and helped them buy horses. This supports the idea that she was brave.

S For these reasons, I believe Sacagawea was a courageous girl.

- Choose your Cite/Explain points carefully. Focus each point you make. **Do not cite every possible reason** that is in the passage.

- If you use **exact wording** from the passage, be sure to put those words in **quotes**.

- Do not just restate the words in the passage. **Summarize** what it says in your own words.

- Use the Cite/Explain part to **show your own thinking**. Why does that piece of evidence prove your point in your own words.

- **To indent or not to indent.** If the essay is long – more than 6 total sentences, then indent each of your 5 paragraphs instead of 1 big paragraph. One big paragraph can make it hard for the reader to distinguish the points you are making.

DOH!

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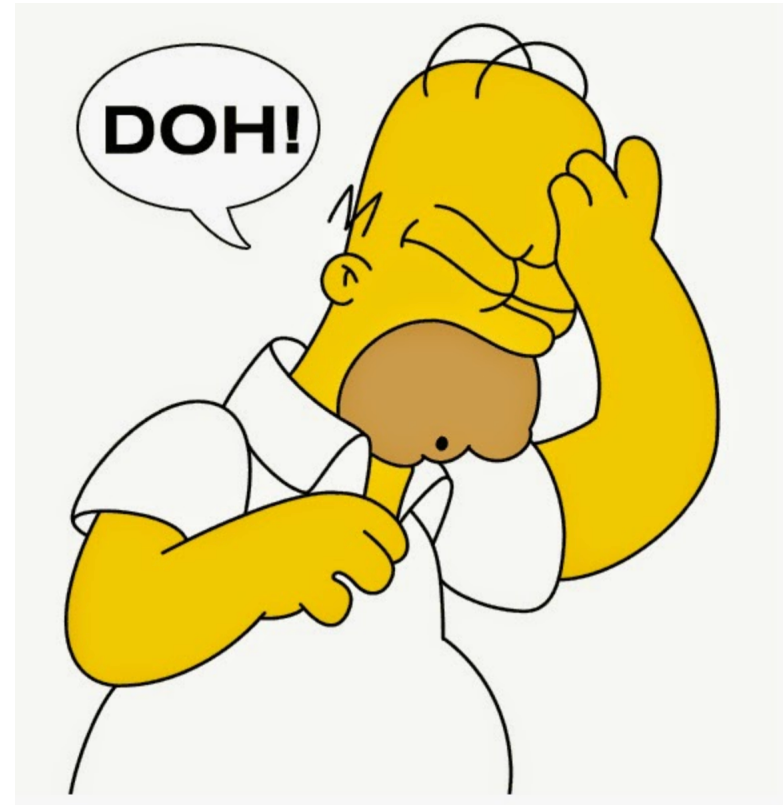
Student Short Response Question Checklist

☐ I carefully read the question/prompt and made sure I understood what it was asking before writing my answer.

☐ R – I RESTATED the question

☐ A – I ANSWERED the question

☐ C – I included TEXT DETAIL #1 to support my answer – "According to the passage..."

☐ E – I explained what TEXT DETAIL #1 means – "This means..."

☐ C – I included TEXT DETAIL #2 to support my answer – "For example..."

☐ E – I explained what TEXT DETAIL #2 means – "This proves..."

☐ S - I ended with a CONCLUDING SENTENCE that referred back to the question/prompt – "In conclusion..."

☐ I proofread my response and made sure I followed the R.A.C.E.S. model

☐ I answered every part of the question that was asked

☐ I used sentence starters for citing text and explaining meaning

☐ I indented my paragraphs, checked spelling and capitalizations

Sentence Starters

To cite evidence/details:
- For example...
- Another example...
- According to the passage...
- According to the text...
- The author describes...
- The author implies...
- The author's words show...
- According to ___, author of ___...
- The text says...
- Early in the text readers learn...
- Later, after..., the text says...
- At the end of the story...
- The reader can infer from (this detail) that...

To explain/add insight:
- This demonstrates that...
- This means...
- In other words...
- This supports the idea that...
- Because...
- This illustrates...
- This shows that...
- This is important because...
- This connects to...
- This reveals...

To sum up your answer (link back to your opening):
- In conclusion...
- Therefore...
- For these reasons...
- In general...
- In summary...
- In closing...
- So as you can see...
- So you can see, when people work together, anything is possible!

Seeing Eye Mini-Horses

Cuddles, a tiny pony, trained to be the world's first guide horse for blind people. Cuddles and some of her fellow miniature horses have been trained like Seeing Eye Dogs.

"Guide horses are not meant to compete with Seeing Eye dogs, but are meant to give blind people more options," says Don Burleson, who in 1999 started the non-profit Guide Horse Foundation.

Burleson says mini-horses make good guides for blind people. The horses, which grow no taller than 34 inches at the shoulder and weigh between 150 and 250 pounds, have excellent vision, good memory, are non-allergenic, and live 30 to 40 years. That's at least three times longer than a guide dog, whose life span averages 10 years.

Miniature horses are mild mannered, trainable and often less threatening than large dogs. They are naturally cautious and have exceptional vision, with eyes set apart for nearly 360-degree range, and they can see clearly even in the total darkness of night. They also have a calm nature in chaotic situations.

There are some limitations to mini-horses for the blind. You cannot ride in taxis, busses or airplanes with one since they cannot easily curl up under the seat. Also, they are unable to hold their waste products for as long as guide dogs, so they may need a diaper for outings longer than 5 hours. Unlike dogs, that can adapt to many living situations, a mini-horse must live outside, although they don't require a lot of land. Dogs also have more of a watchdog instinct than mini-horses, which makes them a better choice for people who have hearing loss in addition to sight loss.

The long-life span is what convinced Dan Shaw to sign up to get the first guide horse. "Instead of going through 3 or 4 guide dogs in my lifetime, I'll get to stick with one animal," he says. Blind people can go through 5 – 7 guide dogs in a lifetime. This can be emotionally and economically draining because each one can cost up to $60,000 to breed, train and place in a home.

Writing Prompt: **What is your opinion about using a mini-horse as a service animal for blind people? Cite 3 pieces of evidence to support your opinion. Follow the R.A.C.E.S. model.**

1) **Send your essay to**
    Karen@Testingmom.com
    – Subject: My Essay
    (Include your name and grade level)
    This is optional! Write it by hand and take a
    picture, or type it!

2) **Next Week:**   More complex opinion/
persuasion essays that cite
evidence from an external source (a
source other than yourself)