



Constructing Responses

The College of Saint Rose
Lee Geiselmann
Amber O'Sullivan

Writing Responses

- Document-based
- Two Focused Responses
 - 100-200 words (suggested 150 minimum)
 - Evaluating and comparing sources
- One Extended Response
 - 400-600 words (suggested 525 minimum)
 - Argumentative essay

Reading Strategies

- Read the extended response question
- Skim the text for main points
- Read the focused response questions
- Read both entire passages carefully

Tips

- Skim and then reread for coherence and clarity
- Think about how the authors' evidence supports their claims and how that relates to your stance
- Write as clearly as possible
- Remember that content counts more than grammar
- Make sure to hit all of the bullet points in the task
- Each response should stand on its own

Sentence Blueprints

- “ Author A contends/discusses/states/claims...
- The claim...
- The main argument in passage B is...
- To support these claims, ...
- For example, ...
- This evidence, however, is/is not sufficient because...
- The information presented supports...”

GET TO THE POINT

- Being clear begins with language...no flowers!
- “Medical research involving animals has dramatically improved the health of the human race. Without animal testing, the cure for Polio might not exist and diabetics would likely a lower survival rate than they now do now. Despite these benefits, some people believe that animals should not be used for medical testing. This essay will outline the advantages of animal testing.”

Incorporating Sources

- Citations
 - Year and author's first and last name the first time mentioned, then last name only
 - Author's name when paraphrasing
 - Quotations are required
- Say, Mean, Matter

Integrating Sources

- " _____ supports this argument by stating, " _____."
- The evidence shows that _____.
- _____'s assertion that _____ is not supported by the facts presented.
- _____ challenges this argument by stating, " _____."
- _____ supports _____, but also questions _____."

The Opposing Argument

- "Here some _____ might object to this by saying _____.
- Of course, many will disagree on the grounds that _____.
- Some might say that _____, but _____."

Ways to Stay Concise

"Omit phrases like "There is," "It is," and "There are" at the beginning of a sentence.

- Wordy: It is challenging for American students to learn Chinese.
- Concise: Learning Chinese is challenging for American students.

Combine and/or shorten sentences by eliminating words like "this," "which," or "that."

- Wordy: Global warming, which has an effect on the temperatures in the Arctic, is endangering many species, including the seal and the polar bear.
- Concise: Global warming affects temperatures in the Arctic, endangering many species, including the seal and the polar bear."

Tone

- Write for an audience of “educated adults”
- Avoid slang or colloquial language
 - Kid versus child
- Be objective
 - The facts indicate...
- Be assertive
 - The conclusion is incorrect **is better than** I think this conclusion might be incorrect.
- Use active over passive voice
 - “Active: The chef prepared the meal.
 - Passive: The meal was prepared by the chef.”