

# Focused Responses: Document- Based Writing

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# Format for First Focused Response

- Start with the weaker argument
- Do not go over the word limit
- Cover every element of the task
  - Bulleted in the instructions

# What's Expected of You: Response One

"You will read two passages on a particular topic—one **pro** and one **con**. Then:

- **Evaluate** both authors' claims, deciding which is more compelling
- **Identify** the thesis (stance/ contention/position)
- **Outline** the claims made to support both positions
- **Determine** the validity and sufficiency of the evidence presented
- **Reach** a conclusion about which position is more compelling"

# Outline for Response One

## Topic

- ◉ Weaker Argument

- ◉ Evidence
- ◉ Evidence

- ◉ Stronger Argument

- ◉ Evidence
- ◉ Evidence

## Pros and Cons of Homeschooling

- ◉ Pro

- ◉ Choice in Curriculum
- ◉ Choice of Location

- ◉ Con

- ◉ Lack of Socialization
- ◉ Parents often lack expertise in some subject areas

# Suggested Sentence Structure, Paragraph One

**“Introduction—1 sentence:** ‘The author of Passage A contends...’

**Next—1-2 sentences:** State Claim 1 and link to weaker or nonexistent evidence

**Next—1-2 sentences:** State Claim 2 and link to weaker or nonexistent evidence

**Next—1-2 sentences:** State Claim 3 and link to weaker or nonexistent evidence

**Conclusion—1 sentence:** ‘Overall, the argument presented in Passage \_\_ ...’”

# Suggested Sentence Structure, Paragraph Two

**“Introduction—1 sentence:** ‘The author of Passage A contends...’

**Next—1-2 sentences:** State Claim 1 and link to stronger evidence

**Next—1-2 sentences:** State Claim 2 and link to stronger evidence

**Next—1-2 sentences:** State Claim 3 and link to stronger evidence

**Conclusion—1-2 sentences:** ‘Overall, the argument presented in Passage \_\_ makes a more compelling case for ... based on sound reasoning and convincing evidence.’”

# Connecting Claims and Evidence in Focused Responses

- **Negative position:**
- Somewhat mistaken, incorrect, inadequate, insufficient
- Not always the case, not necessarily true
- Highly debatable, speculative
- Doubts can be raised
- Little information/work/research/data
- Few studies/investigations/researchers
- Little/few/lack/weak
- **Positive position:**
- Valid, relevant, current, sufficient, convincing, correct, accurate, strong, linked, sound, consistent with, supported

# What's Expected of You: Response Two

“For this task you are expected to *integrate* the data in the graphic with one of the passages to *either* support or counter the authors' claims, reasoning, and/or evidence. The task requires you to:

- Explain how the specific information presented in the graphic either ***supports*** or ***counters*** the authors' claims, reasoning, and evidence
- Include examples from the passage and the graphic to support ***your explanation.***”

# Suggested Sentence Structure, Response Two

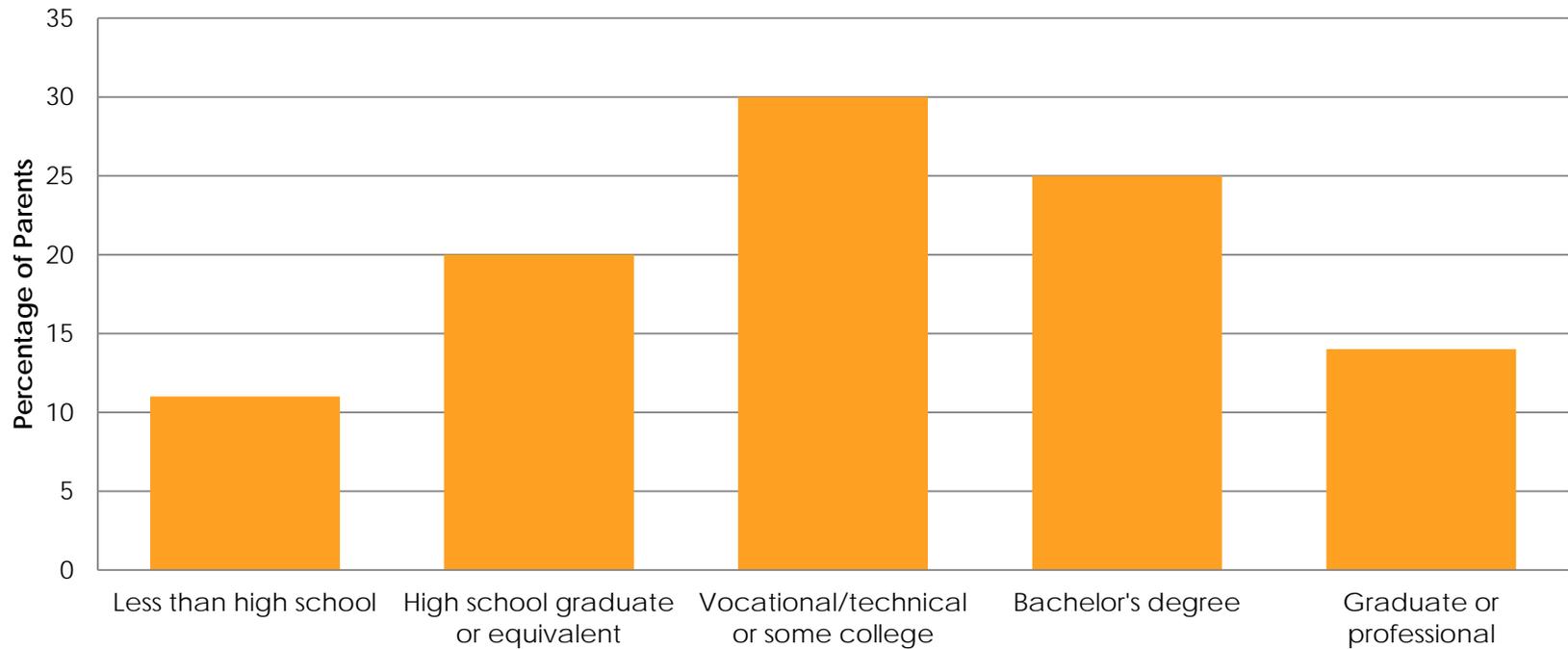
- **“Introductory sentence:** The information presented in the graphic provides strong support for the argument presented in Passage \_\_.
- **OR** The information presented in the graphic counters the argument presented in passage \_\_.
- The table shows that... **OR** As shown in the figure...
- Information/Data from the graphic supports/counters, when the author argues...”

# Analyzing Visuals

- “What patterns do you see?”
- “What does the graph tell you?”
- How could this data be used?
- What conclusions can be drawn?
- What information is missing?

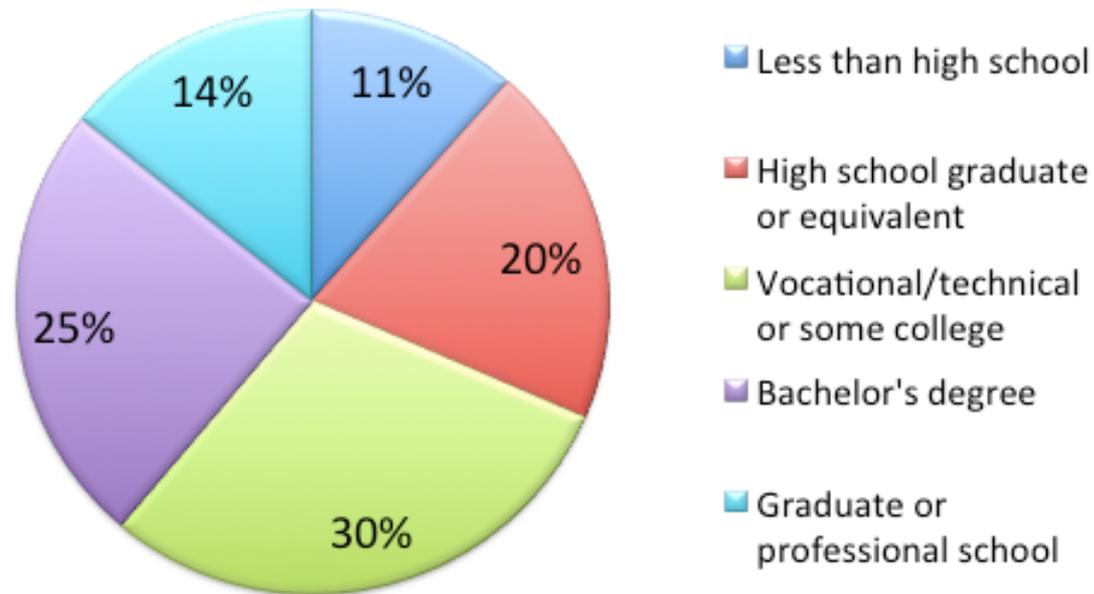
# Graphic

## Homeschool Parents' Highest Educational Level, National Household Educational Survey, 2011



# Graphic

**Homeschool Parents' Highest Education Level,  
*National Household Education Survey, 2011***



# Outline for Response Two

- Analysis of graphic
- Better Argument
  - Evidence
  - Evidence
- Refute Counter Argument
  - Evidence
- Education level of homeschool teachers
- Against Homeschooling
  - All teachers should have Masters' degrees
  - 11% of parents haven't finished high school
- Teachers have to teach to the median aptitude level, failing to meet some student needs
  - Parents might also fail to meet some student needs, due to a lack of education and experience