

Open Response Writing Information

Parents of 3rd - 5th Graders

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Skills Needed to Answer an Open Response Question:

- Read the question first. CIRCLE the verb (explain, discuss, identify, etc...)
Label the number of parts (sometimes a question has multiples parts).
Put the question into your own words (what is the question asking me to do?).
- Read the text with “pen in hand” and highlight (or underline) information that will help answer the question.
- To answer the question, the students “echo the question.”
That is, they use the words from the question to begin their paragraph.
To insure they use the question words, have them check off each word from the question as they use it.
For example, if the question were “Explain why grizzly bears were in danger of dying out” the student would begin the answer with “
This explains why grizzly bears were in danger of dying out.”
- The students answer the question by using evidence (minimum of 4-5 details) they highlighted or underlined from the text. They must put the evidence in their own words.
- To end the paragraph, they “re-echo” the question.
Using the example above, the student could write,
“Those are the reasons why grizzly bears are in danger of dying out.”
- When the students are finished, they need to reread the question and their answer to insure they actually answered the question and that their answer makes sense.
If it does not, they will need to fix their answer or reread the text for more information.