

Workshop Objectives



 Overview the performance expectations for CR items and scoring



 Explore the teaching of key aspects of the constructed response



- Present a structured approach to tackling a writing task
- Share resources



Reflection

- Do you consider yourself a writer?
- How comfortable do you feel writing?
- How comfortable do you feel teaching writing? How comfortable do you feel teaching writing at different levels of support?
- What do you know about the GED® Performance Level Descriptors? The Florida Curriculum Frameworks for ABE and GED® Preparation? The College and Career Readiness Standards used for the TABE 11/12?



Inquiring
IMinds Want to
Know
RLA Extended Response

Why Constructed Response?

- · CR is the best way of directly assessing
 - Writing skills
 - Higher-order thinking skills
- RLA ER 45 min., ~20% of test (in terms of raw score points)
- And, yes, it is a skill used in real-world situations, the workplace, and in postsecondary education.



E.

The Urban Legends: Instructor Remix

- •Using "I" earns an automatic "0".
- The Automated Scoring Engine (ASE) must not be working properly with all those zeroes
- "Show us some real student responses . . . There aren't any real student responses available to use in the classroom"
- There isn't enough time to complete the task
- Skipping the ER is good test strategy



The Urban Legends: Student Remix

- NO ONE earns any points on the ER
- You can game the system by using key words and phrases
- Forty-five minutes isn't enough time to read, plan, and write
- The instructions don't tell you what you have to do
- There is definitely a "right" answer—they are just not admitting it

G E D

7

CR Drivers (aka the Three Traits)

CR requires . . .

- 1. "Use of Evidence" (Arguments and Use of Evidence)
- 2. "Ways of Expressing Meaning" (Ideas and Organizational Structure)
- 3. "Language Conventions and Usage" (Grammar & Sentence Structure)

to respond to the prompt . . .

 "In your response, analyze both positions presented to determine which one is better supported. Use relevant and specific evidence from the article to support your response."





Why Are Students Struggling?

- Not utilizing an outline or plan from which to write
- Not taking a structured approach to the task
- Not writing enough to be scored (still!)
- Not fully utilizing the available time (45 minutes)

G E D

What Earns Points

- Going beyond merely stating which side is better supported
 - A single statement of a stance is considered insufficient
 - Needs to include the "why"
- Doing more than just using quotations
 - Evidence cited must support the overall message and must be analyzed in some way





Setting the Claim (statement of stance)

This . . .

In the argument for daylight savings time, the pro daylight savings position is better supported because the research is more timely and reliable.

Between the two positions arguing whether or not Daylight Saving Time (DST) is useful in terms of energy consumption and safety, the argument in favor of DST is better supported because it uses more factual evidence.

Instead of . . .

They say daylight savings time is a great thing.

The changing to daylight saving time twice a year is quite confusing to a lot of people, especially at the time right before and after the change.



What Earns Points

- Analyzing the issue or the quality of the argument through which both sides are presented
 - Evidence cited must support overall message and must be <u>analyzed</u> in some way
- Demonstrating that the test-taker has engaged with the text and has created a text-based argument

43



Analyze, (Evaluate), and Engage

This . . .

In the argument for daylight savings time, it seems that the pro daylight savings time position has won. The first article brings up several improvements in the daily lives of Americans which daylight savings time brings about. The article then uses studies and large scale research to support its position. In the second article, only smaller scale studies are used, and the writer uses arguments with no factual basis to support antidaylight savings positions.

Instead of . . .

The changing to daylight saving time twice a year is quite confusing to a lot of people, especially at the time right before and after the change. A person can become upset when they forget to change their clock each time. More accidents can also happen in rushing, when you forget to change all of your clocks.



What to Avoid

Responses should not

- Be composed of a summary of the passage or authors' positions
- Include personal information (e.g. opinion)
- Be written in first person (let's discuss why)



Examples

Summarization

If those are the arguments that are made, then people just need to be more responsible if they are having trouble adjusting with the time change.

Personal Information

Back when it was thought of it made sense – but times have changed and now its time to not have it.



Straight talk about..."Earned" Zeroes

Main reasons for "Earned" Zeroes

- Choosing the right evidence, but quoting the material extensively rather than by explaining or paraphrasing
- Not enough of their own writing is available to be assessed
- Too many test-takers are merely summarizing the arguments made by each author rather than creating a claim based on analyzing and evaluating the author's evidence

G E D

17

What is meant by original text?

- demonstrates consistently flawed sentence structure such that meaning may be obscured; demonstrates minimal control over skills 1-5 as listed in the first bullet under Trait 3, Score Point 3 above
 - demonstrates minimal control of basic conventions with specific regard to skills 1 7 as listed in the second bullet under Trait 3, Score Point 3 above
 - contains severe and frequent errors in mechanics and conventions that interfere with comprehension; overall, standard usage is at an unacceptable level for on-demand draft writing.
 - response is insufficient to demonstrate level of mastery over conventions and usage

Now the safety issue comes up again, in the yearly switch to and from DST. One study shows pedestrian fatalities from cars increased immediately after clocks were set back in the fall. Arguments continue with another study that shows 227 pedestrians were killed in the week following the end of DST compared with 65 pedestrians killed the week before DST ended. It is also stated that the adjustment period drivers endure each year is a dangerous time for pedestrians, and DST may be the reason. Instead of a gradual transition in the morning or afternoon by just minutes of sunlight each day, the immediate shift of one hour forward or backward fails to provide drives and pedestrians time to adjust. These opponents believe the consideration of cost and confusion are simply not worth all of the trouble. With everything there are pros and cons no matter what, so in the end we can only hope the good outweighs the bad.

1.8

Simple Techniques to Improve Scores

Expose students to a structured approach to the writing task and help them understand that they need to:

- Use a plan (a "go-to" routine that is effective)
- Read and respond to the prompt
- Determine which position is better supported and why
- Write a <u>complete</u> response (300-500 words), not just a short paragraph
- Provide commentary on the evidence cited (explain the "why")
- Develop two or three ideas fully, rather than mention a lot of things without detail
- Leave five minutes at the end for proofreading



Coming Your Way for 2019 from GEDTS

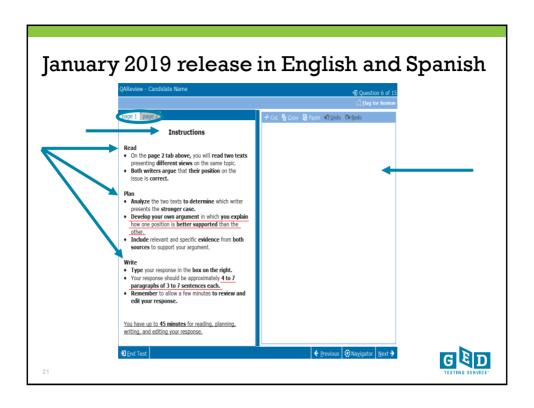
Extended Response Changes

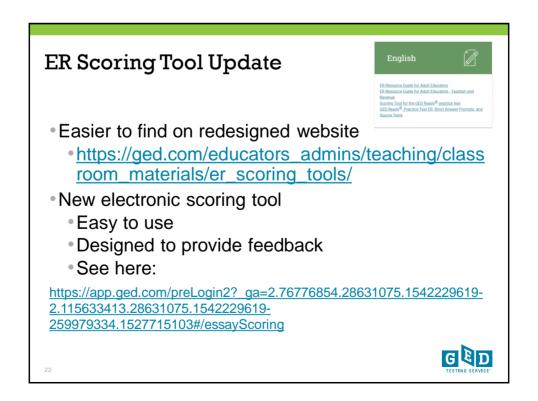
- Improvements to the E. R. item to enhance student experience (enlarging the ER response box)
- Tabs, where instructions are shown, scrolling, etc.
- Beginning January 1, 2019 (for both GED[®] Ready and the Operational GED[®] Test)
- Online Teacher Scoring Tool

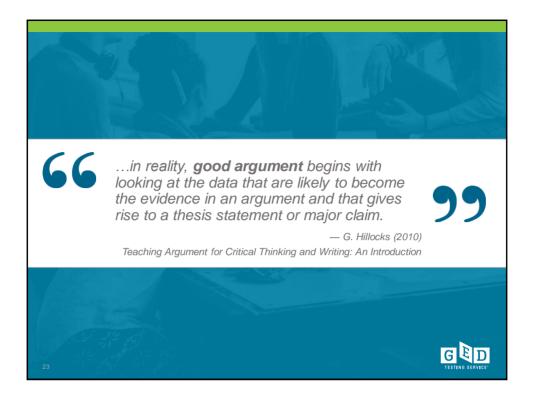
Score Report Enhancements

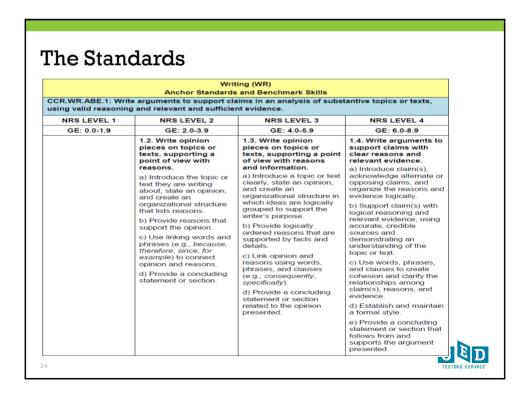
- More personalized
- Simplified terminology with more positive language used
- Clarifying the "What my score means" tab
- Easier to find and use with different devices











Moving from Level to Level

Beginning Literacy Levels

Talk about a topic

Have students state their opinions

Have students provide reasons for their opinions

Discuss their reasons

Have students help you draft a response

Write a response on the board based on the discussion

Low Intermediate ABE Levels

(Shorter passages – one position)

Have students read source text

Have students identify evidence from the text

Have students determine the author's stance on the topic

Have students provide reasons that are based on facts from the text

Discuss evidence

Independently, have students write a paragraph

High Intermediate ABE Levels

(Lengthier passages – two positions)

Have students read source text(s)

Provide students with a writing prompt

Have students analyze the evidence

Discuss validity of the evidence

Have students identify evidence supporting claim

Independently, have students write a multiparagraph response

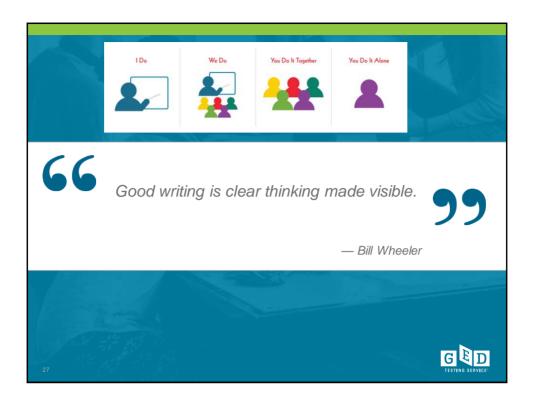


Where do you begin?



- Introduce the idea of developing an evidencebased argument
- Use real-life situations
- Start with personal opinion supported by evidence
- Move to more complex situations or real-life articles
- Work with increasingly complex source texts and writing samples







Which of the following would be more convincing to you?

People should get together with coworkers and carpool to work and save money.

What made the difference to you?

After starting to carpool with some of my friends, I was able to save \$35.00 on gas in just the first week. After looking at my credit card statements for the past six month, I found that I spent 35% less on gas than in the previous year. Carpooling is an excellent way to save money.

G E D

Publix and Wegmans Named America's Favorite Grocery Stores

Publix Super Markets and Wegmans tied for first place, with each scoring 77% on Market Force Information's most recent Customer Loyalty Index. Trader Joe's Market was a close second with a score of 76% and H-E-B was third with a score of 69%.

Publix has ranked second for the past four years. This is the second consecutive year Wegmans has earned top honors. Both companies have repeatedly been named to Fortune's 100 Best Companies to Work For.

A group of 12,774 consumers was surveyed and rated their favorite grocery chains on attributes including value for money, cashier courtesy, fast checkouts, availability of items, ease of finding items, specialty department service and store cleanliness. Participants were asked to rate their satisfaction with their most grocery shopping experience and their likelihood to recommend it to others. The results were then averaged to rank each brand on a Composite Loyalty Index Score. Publix outshone the competition in ease of finding items, having the cleanest stores and fastest checkouts. Wegmans was tops in its specialty department service and second in item availability. Trader Joe's was number one in cashier courtesy, followed closely by Publix and Wegmans. ALDI won the top spot for value, followed by WinCo Foods and Costco; Wegmans was 14th on that attribute and Publix wasn't ranked.

Forbes.com January 18, 2018 Marcia Layton Turner, Contributor

29

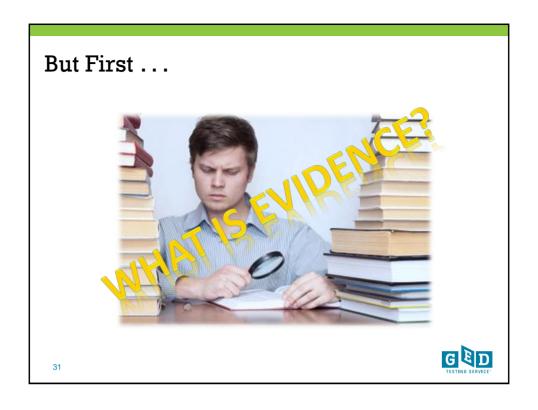
What is missing?

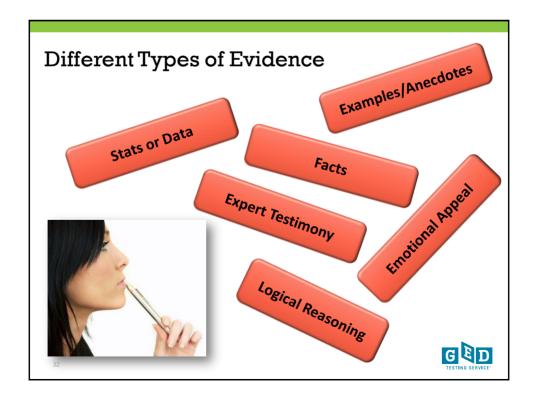
Publix and Wegmans are the best grocery stores in the U.S.

Where's the evidence?

locate items, have clean stores, checkout fast, include specialty department services

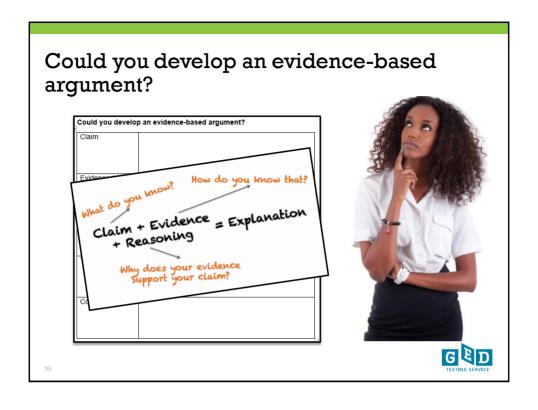


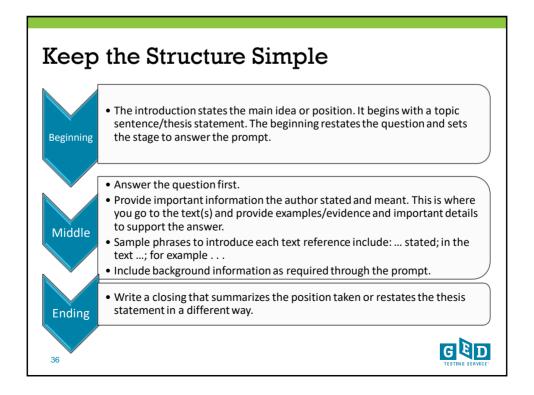




What what is the claim? Why why is that claim made? How do you know? This is the claim. These are the reasons for the claim. This is the evidence or example that supports that claim.

| WHAT This is the claim | WHY These are the reasons | HOW This is your | | |
|---|------------------------------|---|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Even though they tied with Wegman's, Publix is the | | evidence or example | WHY | HOW |
| best grocery store in America. | Locate items | This is the claim | These are the reasons | This is your evidence or example |
| | | Even though they tied with Publix, Wegman's is the | | |
| | | best grocery store in America. | Specialty departments | |
| | Fast checkouts | | | |
| | | _ | | |
| | Clean stores | | Item availability | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | _ | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |





Let's Brainstorm

- In your groups, think of some real-life situations that you could use to provide practice for students.
- •Share your ideas!









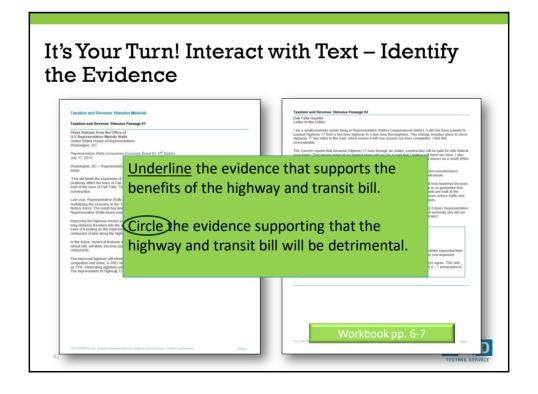
Read and Analyze the Prompt

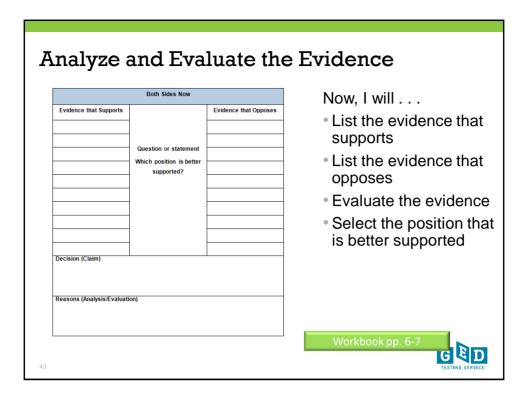
- Question: What does the prompt ask us to do?
- As a class, let's read the prompt
- As we read, we identify the verbs in the prompt and what the verbs ask us to do.

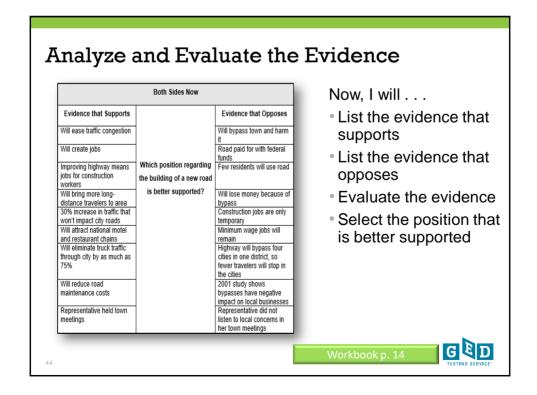
The goal is for students to be able to unpack the prompt prior to reading the source texts.



| Purpose/Context | What is the text about? What type of text is it? What overall purpose does the text serve? |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Author | Who is the author of the text? What qualifies him/her to write on this subject? |
| Audience | Where does the text appear? What does the author expect the reader to do or think based on the argument/information presented? |
| Proof/Evidence | What type of evidence is provided? Is more than one type of evidence provided? Is evidence provided for both sides of an argument? |
| Organization/ Structure/Style | What is the organization of the text? What is the tone? What type of sentence structure/complexity, figurative language, rhetorical questions are used? |







Which side? – Evaluate the Evidence (make a judgement and explain why)

Decision (Claim)

Reasons (Analysis/Evaluation)

In deciding which side was better supported, I asked myself...

- Was it based on evidence?
- What evidence was the strongest?
- Why was the evidence strongest?

GED TESTING SERVICE*

45

What reasons led to your decision?

Decision (Claim)

When comparing the two positions, Representative Walls has the better supported position.

Reasons (Analysis/Evaluation)

The press release provides a stronger argument because it provides more factual and valid evidence instead of opinions.

In deciding which side was better supported, I asked myself...

- Was it based on evidence?
- What evidence was the strongest?
- Why was the evidence strongest?



Or I could take the other side . . .

Decision (Claim)

When looking at both arguments, the writer of the letter to the editor has the better supported argument.

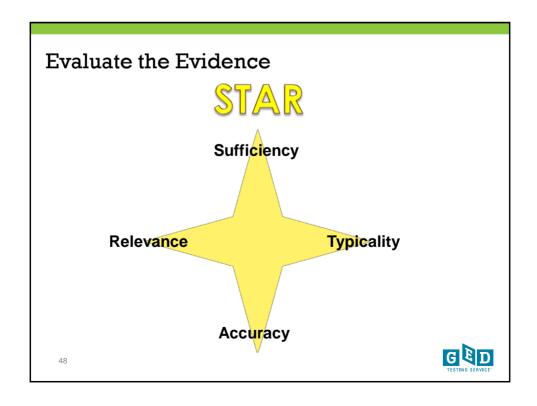
Reasons (Analysis/Evaluation)

The letter to the editor provides a stronger argument because the writer is a resident and more credible and uses more factual evidence.

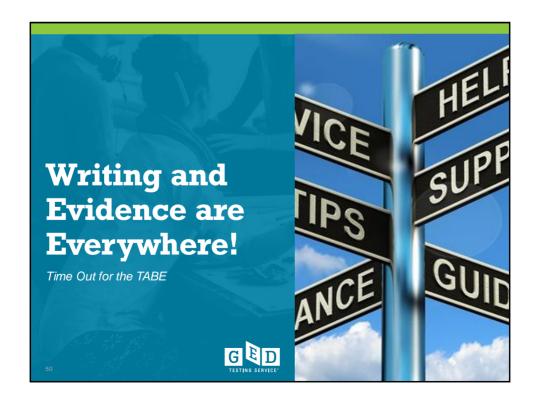
In deciding which side was better supported, I asked myself...

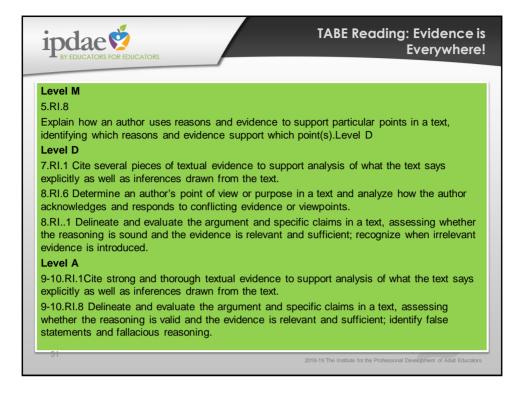
- Was it based on evidence?
- What evidence was the strongest?
- Why was the evidence strongest?

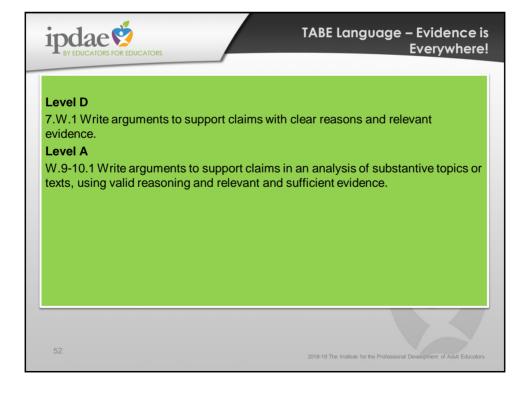
G E D

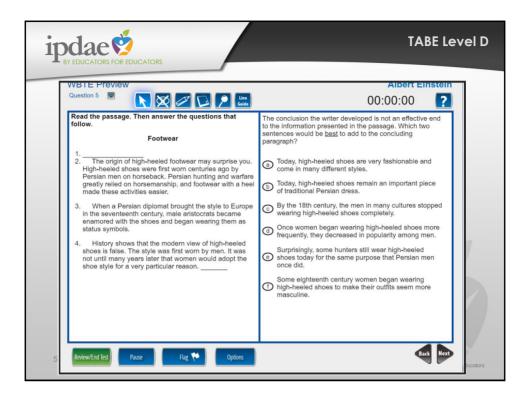




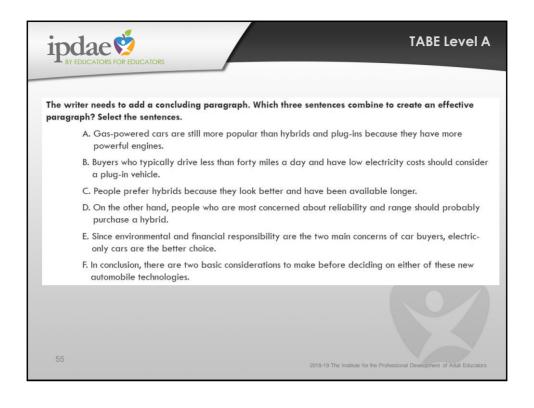








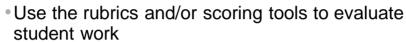






Help Students Respond More Effectively

- Review sample responses in RLA Resource Guides
- Closely examine the annotations
- Help students understand the prompt



- Use a variety of materials
- Incorporate reading and writing into every classroom, every day





