

THE RACE WRITING STRATEGY



Name: _____ Date: _____

Should Kids Have Homework?



The beginning of a new school year starts the return of daily homework for many kids, but is it really helpful? Homework isn't effective if the child doesn't understand the lesson during class time and taking the work home doesn't make it better. Also, homework may require support at home, but some parents aren't able to help their child with homework because they may not understand it themselves. Many families need that time after school to have family time, eat dinner together, or go to soccer practice, and going to bed on time is important. Schools should reconsider their homework policy.

Use the RACE strategy to answer the question. What does the author think about homework? Use evidence from the text.

- ☐ **R** _____
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10 Non-Fiction Passages
The RACE Strategy helps
students answer open-ended
responses questions
completely.

The Race Strategy

Restate the question:

Turn the question into a statement.

Answer the question:

Remember to answer all parts of the question.

Cite the evidence to support your answer:

Support you answer from the text. Remember to use quotation marks if you use a direct quote from the text.

Introduce your citation for example, "According to the text," "For example," The author stated," or "For instance."

Explain your answer: Explain why your citation proves your answer.

Elephants

How do you protect your skin from the sun? Many people use sunscreen. Elephants have sensitive skin, they use a form of sunscreen to protect themselves from the sun.

They throw mud and sand over themselves. Elephants will protect their calves from the sun by standing over them while they are sleeping. Elephants know how to avoid the sun.

How are elephants intelligent animals?

R Animals are intelligent animals because

A they know how to protect themselves from the sun

C In the text, it says, " They throw mud and sand over themselves. They stand over their calves to protect them from the sun."

E Based on the text elephants use mud and sand as a sunscreen.

Visiting the Zoo



Have you visited a zoo recently? Some people believe that zoos are actually not beneficial for wild animals. They believe animals are meant to be free and not held in captivity. This can cause stress and boredom for the animals. However, there is another side to this issue. Many zoos have breeding programs for animals that are endangered and would soon be extinct. For many people visiting the zoo it is a tradition and seeing an animal in person is more memorable than watching a documentary. Are zoos harming or helping animals?

Use the RACE strategy to answer the question. According to the text, Do you think wild animals should be kept in zoos? Use evidence from the text.

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The Most Important Meal of the Day



Is it true that breakfast is the most important meal of the day? Eating breakfast in the morning refuels your body for the day after going without food for 10 hours while you were sleeping. If you skip breakfast, you will feel tired, restless and irritable. Make sure you choose foods that are rich in whole grains, fiber, and protein, as they will enhance your attention span, concentration, and memory. These are some benefits of eating breakfast.

Use the RACE strategy to answer the question. Why should students eat breakfast in the morning? Use evidence from the text.

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Free Meals at School



Allowing every child to eat for free at school, instead of requiring parents to complete a free and reduced lunch form, will provide every child with breakfast and lunch. For many students these might be the only meals they get throughout the day and they may not be sure if they will have a meal at home. Many schools have programs that provide food for students to take home to eat in the evening. We all know that nutrition is very important and no child should go home from school hungry.

Use the RACE strategy to answer the question. Do you think it's important for school to provide free meals to every student ? Use evidence from the text?

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Sleeping



Getting enough sleep at night is very important. Most kids sleep about 9 hours at night, but they really need 10-11 hours of sleep and some may need more. When children don't have enough sleep, they feel tired and cranky in the morning. This might cause them to have a difficult time following directions at school. Children who regularly get an adequate amount of sleep show more positive behavior, attention, and improvement in learning and memory.

Use the RACE strategy to answer the question. Why is it important to get enough sleep at night? Use evidence in the text.

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Slime



Slime has become a social media sensation. The slime today is a lot more appealing than the green boring slime on Nickelodeon in the 90s. In 2017 slime became really popular. Slime can be bright colored, glittery, and have many different textures. Some are crunchy, glow in the dark, and have polka dots. The most popular ingredient in slime is glue, but other ingredients such as corn starch, old play dough, and sand are used as well. Use the RACE strategy to answer the question. According to the text, What does the word "appealing" mean? Use evidence of the text.

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Get up and Move



Exercising daily is a good habit that should start in childhood. Children who are physically active tend to grow up to be physically active adults. Families should spend more family time outdoors, walking, playing catch, or biking, rather than in the house watching television. Regular physical activity has benefits. It helps build and maintain healthy bones and muscles, reduces anxiety, and it may even help improve students' academic performance, allowing them to concentrate on their studies. Regular physical activity may also eliminate disease, diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases. An hour a day is all it takes.

Use the RACE Strategy to answer the question. What are the benefits of being physically active as a child? Use evidence in the text.

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Statue of Liberty



The Statue of Liberty was a gift to the United States from France in 1886, after the Civil War, symbolizing friendship. It is the most recognizable statue in the world. There is a poem carved on the statue titled, "The New Colossus." The poem is about welcoming people from all over the world. The location of the statue, New York Harbor, was a major receiving port for immigrants in the 19th century. They came to the United States to seek religious freedom and economic opportunity in the U.S. Many immigrants felt welcomed by the Statue of Liberty as they sailed past Ellis Island.

Use the RACE Strategy to answer the question. Why did many immigrants feel that the Statue of Liberty welcomed them to the U.S.? Use evidence in the text.

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Use the RACE Strategy to answer the question. Why did many immigrants feel that the Statue of Liberty welcomed them to the U.S.? Use evidence in the text.

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Fire Safety



Many fires are started by children each year. Fires can spread quickly and cause harm. It is important to know ways to stay safe. Some ways to stay safe are to install fire alarms on every level of the house, check smoke detectors monthly, and practice a fire escape plan. Also, don't play with matches or lighters. Be careful around candles and stoves. In case of a fire, remember to never hide from firefighters and stay calm.

Use the RACE Strategy to answer the question. Why is it important to know about fire safety? Use evidence in the text.

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Man’s Best Friend



Have you heard the phrase, “Man’s best friend”? This phrase refers to dogs and their companionship with humans. There have been lots of studies that show how dogs decrease stress levels. Just petting or watching your pet will reduce stress. People with dogs are more active, as they often take their dogs to dog parks, go on walks, and play fetch. A dog’s amazing sense of smell can detect cancer. Many people have reported that their dog sniffed and licked spots that later were cancerous. Dogs provide a sense of security. If you are considering getting a pet, a dog may be the answer.

Use the RACE Strategy to answer the question. According to the text, why are dogs known as, “Man’s best friend”? Use evidence the text.

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