The RACE Writing Strategy

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 your 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?

Animals are intelligent animals because
they know how to protect themselves from the sun
In the text, it says, “They throw mud and sand over themselves. They stand over their calves to protect them from the sun.”
Based on the text elephants use mud and sand as a sunscreen.
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.

- **R** Underline the evidence with a crayon or marker and write on the line below.  

- **A**

- **C**

- **E**
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.

R _________________________________

________________________________

A _________________________________

________________________________

C Underline the evidence with a crayon or marker and write on the line below. _________________________________

________________________________

________________________________

________________________________

________________________________
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

___________________________________________

A

___________________________________________

C

Underline the evidence with a crayon or marker and write on the line below. __________________________

___________________________________________

E

___________________________________________
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 ____________________________

________________________________

A ____________________________

________________________________

C Underline the evidence with a crayon or marker and write on the line below. ____________________________

________________________________

________________________________

________________________________

E ____________________________

________________________________

________________________________

________________________________

________________________________
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.

□ R ____________________________

□ A ____________________________

□ C Underline the evidence with a crayon or marker and write on the line below. ____________________________

□ E ____________________________
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.

R
____________________________________________________

A ____________________________________________________

C Underline the evidence with a crayon or marker and write on the line below. ________________________________

E ____________________________________________________
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?

☐ R ______________________________

☐ A ______________________________

☐ C Underline the evidence with a crayon or marker and write on the line below. ______________________________

☐ E ______________________________
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?

R _________________________________

A _________________________________

C Underline the evidence with a crayon or marker and write on the line below. ________________________________

E _________________________________
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.

- R ________________________________
  ________________________________

- A ________________________________
  ________________________________

- C Underline the evidence with a crayon or marker and write on the line below. ________________________________
  ________________________________
  ________________________________

- E ________________________________
  ________________________________
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.

R

________________________________________

________________________________________

A

________________________________________

________________________________________

C Underline the evidence with a crayon or marker and write on the line below. ________________________________

________________________________________

________________________________________

________________________________________

________________________________________

E

________________________________________

________________________________________

________________________________________

________________________________________

________________________________________
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.

R  
________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________

A  
________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________

C  Underline the evidence with a crayon or marker and write on the line below. _________________________________
________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________

E  
________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________
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.

R

A

C Underline the evidence with a crayon or marker and write on the line below.

E
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.

- **R** _______________________________
  __________________________________

- **A** _______________________________
  __________________________________

- **C** Underline the evidence with a crayon or marker and write on the line below. _______________________________
  __________________________________
  __________________________________

- **E** _______________________________
  __________________________________
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.

R ________________________________
________________________________
________________________________
________________________________

A ________________________________
________________________________
________________________________
________________________________

C Underline the evidence with a crayon or marker and write on the line below. ________________________________
________________________________
________________________________
________________________________

E ________________________________
________________________________
________________________________
________________________________
________________________________
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.

R

A

C Underline the evidence with a crayon or marker and write on the line below. ________________________________

E
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.

R ________________________________

A ________________________________

C Underline the evidence with a crayon or marker and write on the line below. ________________________________
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.

R

A

C Underline the evidence with a crayon or marker and write on the line below. __________________________________________

E
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.

R ________________________________
________________________________

A ________________________________
________________________________
________________________________
________________________________

C Underline the evidence with a crayon or marker and write on the line below. ________________________________
________________________________
________________________________
________________________________

E ________________________________
________________________________
________________________________
________________________________
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 from the text.

R: 

A: 

C: Underline the evidence with a crayon or marker and write on the line below. 

E: 
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 from the text.

☐ R

☐ A

☐ C Underline the evidence with a crayon or marker and write on the line below. ________________________________

☐ E
Thank you for your purchase. By purchasing this you agree that the contents of Glowing in Primary are licensed to you and your classroom, for personal use, or as a single user. I retain the copyright and reserve all rights to this product.

Please let me know if you see any errors.

Contact me at glowinginprimary@gmail.com

Thank you to the following artist:

Adobe Stock Images

Thank you.