



## What is a Constructed Response?

A constructed response is a type of open-ended essay question that demonstrates cognitive knowledge and reasoning. The answer must be provided using information that can be found in a particular text or other prompt (map, picture, graphic organizer, etc.) and is not meant to demonstrate opinion, but to show how you are able to extract information and use this as the basis for forming a complete answer.

To understand and answer the constructed response question, the easiest way is to memorize the acronym, "DEER". This stands for **define** term & state a topic sentence from the question, give an **example** from the text, **explain** the example, and **refer** back to the question (conclusion).

**D** – define term and state a topic sentence from the question

**E** – give example(s) from the text

**E** - explain the example(s)

**R** – refer back to the question

## **Define term and state a topic sentence from the question**

This means that you define any terms that need to be addressed in your response. Also, you need to begin with a topic sentence. A topic sentence is a sentence that expresses the main idea of a paragraph.

## **Give example(s) from the text**

As the constructed response question is meant to show how well you comprehend and are able to draw inferences from the prompt, it is essential that you give examples from the text to show how well it supports your answer.

## **Explain the example(s)**

In addition to the evidence you have cited from the text, you will need to supply your own reasoning for why you think your answer is correct. After stating your example you would explain it fully.

(the EE is repeated when the question asks for two references)

## **Refer back to the question**

Refer back to what the question asked to conclude your constructed response.