

# How to Answer Short Response Questions

1. Always use complete sentences.
2. *Never* begin an answer with a pronoun (he, she, it, they, etc.)
3. Always use specific terms or names that are provided in the article/story and in the question.
  - \* A person should read your answer and know what the question was asking.\*
4. Use details and examples from the article/story to support your answer. (*Use a direct quotation*)
5. Use transitional words or phrases to make your sentences flow smoothly. For example, this shows when..., an example is..., are acceptable and frequently used transitions.

## Example:

Question: Why does the older brother teach Doodle to walk?

Answer:

Topic  
Sentence

The older brother in "The Scarlet Ibis" teaches Doodle to walk for purely selfish, prideful reasons. The older brother is ashamed of Doodle's handicaps and wants a younger brother who can walk, swim, run, play and fight. When the family praises the older brother, he is ashamed since he taught him to walk for his own pride, which "spoke to [him] louder than all their voices" and "Doodle walked only because" of the shame brother felt at "having a crippled brother." Selfishness and pride are the motivating factors behind brother's desire to teach Doodle to walk. In the end, brother's pride hurts Doodle, and himself.

ANSWER

PROOF  
from text to  
support  
answer

EXPLANATION  
/EXTENSION

## REMEMBER:

- \*Short Responses are really well-developed paragraphs
  - \*Short Responses have details to support your answers
  - \*Short Responses use proper grammar, punctuation and sentence structure
  - \*In the topic sentence, the answer to the question is at the end of that sentence.
  - \*In the concluding sentence, start with your answer to the question.
- Use this page for planning and pre-writing.