



The ANSWER Key for Extended Writing Tasks

Mastering extended writing tasks is a crucial skill for students and an instructional necessity for teachers. The ANSWER Key provides students a routine for writing extended responses to prompts based on sources. Teachers will learn how to teach the comprehension and writing skills that are required to complete a writing response. They also learn how to generate writing prompts based on content sources as a tool to support content learning. *The ANSWER Key* emphasizes the importance of having students write to prompts on a regular basis rather than simply teaching the skills to prepare for high-stakes assessments.

Instructional practices in *The ANSWER Key* address these topics, strategies and skills:

- How to “unpack” and generate a writing-from-sources prompt
 - How to teach this routine for writing responses
 - Connections to Common Core literacy standards
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- A Analyze the prompt
 - determine purpose, task, audience
 - determine source requirements

 - NS Note, Select
 - set up two-column notes
 - read actively
 - select relevant source information/evidence

 - W Write
 - write an introductory statement
 - turn notes into sentences and paragraphs
 - use transitions to connect ideas and source references

 - ER Edit and Revise
 - reread prompt
 - check organization and clarity
 - revise to improve response
 - edit for conventions
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- How to provide user-friendly feedback and opportunities to revise extended responses
 - How to identify literacy skills that may need explicit instruction

Who Should Participate: Grades 3-5 elementary teachers, grades 6-12 content classroom teachers, educators who provide support to struggling readers, literacy specialists and coaches, and grades 3-12 administrators.

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