RACE

Writing a GREAT Short Answer Response **Using**Evidence

Why use this: Using the RACE Method will help you to focus your response in a clear and concise manner. It is not enough to simply answer the question.

Readers and graders are looking for:

- o evidence that you understand
- analysis (thinking)
- support for your answer with evidence from the readings
- clarity



a tip for OAA: Your space for answering is limited, so clear, concise answers with appropriate textual evidence will receive the best scores. Concise* does NOT just mean short.

According to dictionary.com *Concise: adjective

expressing or covering much in few words; brief in form but comprehensive in scope



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Writing a GREAT Short Answer Response!

- 1. **R**estate the question asked
- 2. **A**nswer (main idea)
- 3. **C**ite evidence from the text
- 4. Explain and Elaborate on your answer and the evidence

Cite evidence from the text means to return to the reading and find at least one quote, *direct* or *indirect*, which supports your answer. Direct quotes are often better and having both is best!

Direct Quote- A direct quote is a quote in which you copy an author's words directly - word for word. Direct quotes will be surrounded by quotation marks.

Example: "I couldn't laugh; I couldn't applaud; it filled me with bitterness to have others do it and to have people make a hero of Hicks and the people around him" (659).

Indirect Quote - An indirect quote is a quote in which you paraphrase - put into your own words - what the author is saying.

Example: Twain was unable to laugh or applaud, because he was so angry that Hicks could be mesmerized and he could not (659).

A good response will carefully analyze the text, offer textual evidence from the piece or pieces that will directly support your answer **and will explain how this evidence supports your answer.**

Explain and Elaborate -- Do not just say something is true, prove it. Show how the evidence supports the answer; supply reasons your answer is correct. In many cases, the difference between an A and a B as a grade is due to the effective use of supporting evidence.

How do you write an effective essay exam?

- 1. Read through all the questions carefully.
- 2. Budget your time and decide which question(s) you will answer first.
- 3. Underline the key word(s) which tell you what to do for each question.
- 4. Choose an organizational pattern appropriate for each key word and plan your answers on scratch paper or in the margins.
- 5. Write your answers as quickly and as legibly as you can; do not take the time to recopy.
- 6. Begin each answer with one or two sentence thesis which summarizes your answer. If possible, phrase the statement so that it rephrases the question's essential terms into a statement (which therefore directly answers the essay question).
- 7. Support your thesis with specific references to the material you have studied.
- 8. Proofread your answer and correct errors in spelling and mechanics.

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