

# Answering Open-Ended/Extended Response Questions

**Before You Read:** -Read the question

- Circle KEY WORDS in the question that tell you what to do
- Restate the question in your mind to help you figure out what it is asking

**While You Read:** -Underline main ideas and important information that you can use to support your answer

**STEP 1-Read** the question

- Look for the key words in the question and plan your attack  
ex. discuss, explain, main idea, etc.

**STEP 2-Think** about what the question is asking you and organize your information

**STEP 3-Write** your answer

**-Use the key words in the question and turn it into a statement**

**+TEXT REFERENCES – Use quotes or statements from the passage**

- State information from the story to support your answer – **For Example:**  
-In the passage it said...  
-One example from the story was...  
- character name stated in the passage that...

**+CONNECTIONS or CONCLUSIONS**

- Connect to a real life experience or other literature. (stories, magazines, TV, movies, etc.)
- Draw inferences or conclusions about what is happening in the story based on what you know.

**+EXTEND – Tell me more!**

- Provide additional information
- Based on the text references you used, what else do you think?
- Expand on your statements – infer & write additional information from your text references

**-Write a concluding sentence to wrap up your answer and connect it to your first sentence.**



**State ALL the key ideas in the passage that support your answer and make connections, conclusions, and extensions to all of them.**

**STEP 4- Assess** your answer

- Reread what you have written and look for areas that you could improve

**STEP 5-Improve** your answer

- Make corrections – add additional text references, connections, conclusions, or extensions and double check to be sure that the 3 areas are BALANCED