

Name: _____ Date: _____

How to Answer a Constructed Response Question

Step 1: State your claim.

Your claim is your answer to the question. Your claim should . . .

- **echo the question. In other words, it should turn the question into a statement.**

Example A: Imagine you are answering the question, “According to the article, what is the best way to eat chocolate?” Your answer should start like this: “According to the article, the best way to eat chocolate is . . .”

Example B: Imagine you are answering the question, “Does the author think it’s ever okay to lie?” If your answer is yes, your answer could start like this: “The author thinks that sometimes it’s okay to lie . . .”

- **include reasoning or explanation. So if you are answering a yes-or-no question, you need to do more than say yes or no—you also need to provide some explanation or reason for your answer. If you are answering an open-ended question, you need to provide a brief summary or explanation of your ideas. Your reasoning or explanation should be one to three sentences.**

Example A: According to the article, the best way to eat chocolate is take your time and enjoy the chocolate with all five of your senses.

Example B: “The author thinks that sometimes it’s okay to lie, if you are lying to make someone feel good and no harm will come from your lie.”

Step 2: Provide text evidence with commentary.

Text evidence is details from the text that support your claim—in other words, details from the text that show why your claim is true.

Commentary is where you explain WHY the text evidence supports your claim. Your commentary should include key words from your claim. Text evidence . . .

- **can be in the form of a direct quotation or paraphrase.**
- **should be cited. In other words, you need to make it clear to the reader where the quote or paraphrase came from. Give the page number and, if it’s not obvious, the author’s name and/or the name of the article.**

Here are two examples of text evidence with commentary:

Example A (using a direct quote): “Before you bite the chocolate, take a moment to look at it,” the author writes on page 5. “Admire its glossy shine. Then lift it to your nose and take a deep inhale. What do you notice?” (p. 5) Here, the author is telling readers to take their time before biting into the chocolate, and to use their senses of sight and smell to enjoy the chocolate.

For more on using text evidence, see Scope’s “How to Use Text Evidence” reference sheet.

Example B (using a paraphrase): According to the author, it's okay to tell your friend you're sure no one at the party noticed the spinach stuck between her teeth, because there is nothing to be done about it now and maybe you can relieve some of your friend's embarrassment (p. 14). Here, the author is saying that it's OK to tell a small lie that makes someone feel better and doesn't do any harm.

Step 3: Write a conclusion.

A conclusion is 1-3 closing sentences that leave your reader with an insightful thought. A conclusion could . . .

- **state whether you agree or disagree with the author's point of view, and why.**
- **state whether you think the author's reasoning is sound or unsound, and why.**
- **tell how the topic you've been writing about connects to your life.**

Here are two examples of text evidence with commentary:

Example A: Perhaps eating chocolate in the slow, thoughtful way the author suggests could lead to a deeper enjoyment of it—but eating chocolate this way would also require an awful lot of patience and self-control!

Example B: Is the author right? I think so. Being completely honest about everything at all times is very likely to lead to some hurt feelings, and why hurt someone's feelings if it's not necessary?

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How to Use Text Evidence

When you write about something you have read, you need to use **text evidence**—that is, details from the text—to support the points you are making. You can use text evidence in the form of a direct quotation (the author’s exact words) or a paraphrase (a restatement of what the author wrote). You also need to explain WHY that text evidence is relevant.

Here are some tips for using text evidence:

1. Quote or paraphrase.

When using a **direct quote**, copy down the exact words from a sentence. Surround a direct quotation with quotation marks.

To **paraphrase** is to put something written or spoken by someone else into your own words. You don’t change the meaning of what the other person wrote or said, just the wording. A paraphrase is not surrounded by quotation marks.

2. Make it clear where your evidence comes from.

Identify who wrote or said what you are quoting or paraphrasing. This is called “**citing your source**.” Include a page number.

Words to help you:

*according to (the author),
(the author) claims,
suggests, states, writes,
reports, describes, implies,
explains, argues, declares,
observes, notes, reveals,
remarks*

3. Explain why your text evidence is relevant.

Include a sentence that makes it clear how the text evidence supports your idea. Reread the information you quoted or paraphrased and ask yourself, “So what?”

Words to help you:

*(the author) says this
because, this proves that,
this exemplifies how, this
confirms, demonstrates,
describes, explains,
illustrates, implies,
suggests*

Now let's look at two sample paragraphs. The first uses text evidence correctly.
The second uses text evidence incorrectly.

SAMPLE 1

Riding the world's tallest and fastest roller coaster, Kingda Ka, is a unique experience. According to author Mario Martinez in his book Roller Coasters of the World, Kingda Ka accelerates to 128 miles per hour in less than three seconds, going straight up at a 90-degree angle (18). "I have ridden hundreds of coasters," he writes. "But none of them were as terrifying as this one" (20). This suggests that Kingda Ka stands out among roller coasters as particularly intense.

This paragraph looks great! There are quotation marks around the direct quote, the writer tells us where the paraphrase and the quote came from, and the writer explains how her text evidence supports her statement that riding Kingda Ka is a unique experience. Hooray!

SAMPLE 2

Riding the world's tallest and fastest roller coaster, Kingda Ka, is a unique experience. According to Mario Martinez, Kingda Ka accelerates to 128 miles per hour in less than three seconds, going straight up at a 90-degree angle. "I have ridden hundreds of coasters. But none of them were as terrifying as this one."

In this paragraph, neither the quote nor the paraphrase is cited correctly. Who is Mario Martinez? Which page in what book or article did the paraphrase and quote come from? The writer also fails to explain how her text evidence supports her statement that riding Kingda Ka is unique. She just plopped her text evidence into her paragraph.

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Constructing a Response

Directions: Read "Could This Robot From Star Wars Ever Exist?" and complete the activity on page 27. Then follow the steps below to write a response to the question on page 27.

→ See *Scope's* "How to Answer a Constructed-Response Question" for tips and information about how to complete this activity.

Question from page 27:

How will robots affect the way we live in the future?

Step 1: Write your claim.

Complete the sentence below to write your claim in response to the question.

Robots will affect the way we live in the future by _____

_____.

Step 2: Provide text evidence with commentary.

Write two details from the article that support your claim. You can write them in the form of direct quotations or paraphrases. Include a citation for each detail. Explain how each detail supports your claim.

Detail 1: _____

Sentence explaining how this detail supports my claim: _____

Detail 2: _____

Sentence explaining how this detail supports my claim: _____

Step 3: Write a conclusion.

Wrap it all up. End your paragraph with a strong sentence that will give your readers something to think about. One option is to refer to your central claim. Or come up with an idea of your own!

Now it's time to put it all together. And guess what? You've already done the hardest part! All that's left is to take what you just wrote and put it together into one flowing paragraph. Write your final response on a separate sheet of paper.

Remember to:

- Use transitions between sentences.
- Read your paragraph to make sure your ideas are clear. Revise as needed.
- When you are satisfied with your paragraph, read it again to make sure there are no spelling or punctuation mistakes.

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Go to Scope
Online to listen
to the words
and definitions
read aloud.

Vocabulary:

"Could This Robot From Star Wars Ever Exist?"

1. artificial intelligence (ahr-tuh-FISH-uhl in-TEL-i-juhns) *noun*; Something that is artificial is made by humans—often, in imitation of something that is natural or real. Artificial flowers are often made of plastic or silk.

Intelligence is your ability to learn or understand things or to deal with new or difficult situations.

Artificial intelligence (often shortened to AI) is a type of computer technology that gives machines the ability to imitate intelligent human behavior such as learning and decision making. Driverless cars and Facebook's ability to highlight faces in your photos and suggest friends to tag are examples of artificial intelligence.

2. automation (aw-tuh-MAY-shuhn) *noun*; Automation is having machines or technology do work that was once done by human beings. Automation is about making things automatic—that is, able to work without direct human involvement or assistance.

3. disconcerting (dis-kuhn-SUR-ting) *adjective*; If something is disconcerting, it makes you feel uneasy—confused or worried and a bit disturbed. Something that is disconcerting is weird in a not-so-good way.

4. empathy (EM-puh-thee) *noun*; Empathy is the ability to understand and share someone else's feelings, thoughts, or experiences; it's the ability to put yourself in someone else's shoes. How is empathy different from sympathy? If you have sympathy for others, you care about them and feel sad that something bad happened to them. If you feel empathy for someone, you experience that person's feelings as your own—you feel what that person feels, whether it's joy, sorrow, fear, anger, or any other emotion.

5. humanoid (HYOO-muh-noid) *adjective or noun*; Something that is humanoid looks or acts like a human being. *Humanoid* can also be used as a noun to refer to a humanoid being. In movies, space aliens are often portrayed as humanoids.

6. sophisticated (suh-FIS-tuh-kayt-id) *adjective*; A sophisticated person has a lot of experience, knowledge, or wisdom about the world and especially about the arts and culture.

He or she usually has good taste. A woman who eats at fancy restaurants, goes to the opera, and speaks three languages would likely be called sophisticated.

Sophisticated can also mean "complicated and advanced." Computers are sophisticated machines.

Or *sophisticated* can mean "appealing to the intelligence." A sophisticated novel makes you think as you read it.

7. stride (strahyd) *verb or noun*; As a verb, *stride* means "to walk with long steps."

As a noun, *stride* can refer to a long step or to a significant advance in some sort of process. If a scientist says that she is making strides in her research, she means that her research is going well and she is making big advances toward understanding what she is trying to understand.

Directions: On this page, list any other words from the article whose definitions you are not sure about. For each word, use context clues to try to figure out the meaning. Then look up the word in a few different dictionaries. Discuss the primary meaning of the word with your teacher or another adult. Then write a definition for the word and one example sentence using the word.

Vocabulary Practice

"Could This Robot From Star Wars Ever Exist?"

Directions: Fill in the circle next to the best answer to each question below.

1. Which lawn mower has artificial intelligence?

- Ⓐ a lawn mower with a lever for adjusting its blades, letting you choose the height of the cut grass
- Ⓑ a lawn mower that mows your lawn for you using sensors, then finds its way back to its charging dock

2. Who is making strides in learning to play the drums?

- Ⓐ Evan, who is starting to be able to play complex rhythms and drum along to songs
- Ⓑ Roy, who keeps dropping his drumsticks and can't seem to stay on the beat

3. Which dream would be disconcerting to have?

- Ⓐ You're having a wonderful time at an amusement park.
- Ⓑ You're getting ready for school. When you look in the mirror, you see that all but two of your teeth have fallen out.

4. Which is an example of automation?

- Ⓐ A supermarket employs teenagers to work as cashiers.
- Ⓑ A post office uses a machine to sort packages by size.

5. Which would be considered a sophisticated musical experience?

- Ⓐ going on a field trip to hear an orchestra play classical music
- Ⓑ listening to your brother's rock band practice in the garage

6. Who has more empathy?

- Ⓐ Heather, who sees Dave's sad expression and is filled with sadness, though nothing bad has happened to her
- Ⓑ Lydia, who sees Dave's sad expression and feels nothing except the hope that he doesn't ruin the party

7. Which robot could be described as humanoid?

- Ⓐ a robot that has two arms and two legs, and speaks French, English, and Spanish
- Ⓑ a robot with eight legs that makes beeping and buzzing noises.

8. Which robot is more sophisticated?

- Ⓐ a robot that has been programmed to roll across the floor
- Ⓑ a robot that has been programmed to show empathy and carry on conversations with humans

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“Could This Robot From Star Wars Ever Exist?” Quiz

Directions: Read “Could This Robot From Star Wars Ever Exist?” Then answer the questions below.

- Which statement **BEST** expresses a central idea of the article?
 - NASA will soon use robots for space travel.
 - Automation enables people to live longer.
 - Star Wars robots can think for themselves.
 - Robotics and AI will affect the way we live in the future.
- Which lines **BEST** support your answer to question 1?
 - “Star Wars droids operate at all levels of society” and “In some ways, they already do.”
 - “Your friends would come from distant planets” and “You’d travel by starship.”
 - “Robots are probably going to put some people out of work” and “Robots and artificial intelligence could make our lives more convenient and enjoyable.”
 - “But will they be as cute as R2-D2?” and “But could such droids ever exist in the real world?”
- On page 26, Kristin Lewis writes that droids are special robots “that can ‘think.’” She places *think* in quotation marks to indicate that robots
 - are smarter than humans.
 - aren’t really thinking; they’re just imitating human thought.
 - malfunction often.
 - can perform work much faster than humans.
- According to Lewis, automation leads to more affordable food and clothing. Why might this be?
 - Automation saves companies time and money, and companies pass those savings on to customers.
 - Automation lowers the quality of food and clothing that companies produce.
 - Automation leads to job losses.
 - Automation leads to decreased production.
- Note Lewis’s use of rhetorical questions in the section “Good for Society?” These rhetorical questions contribute to the article by
 - revealing that robots want to control the world.
 - suggesting that robots are better workers than humans.
 - encouraging readers to think about whether advances in robotics and AI are good for society.
 - convincing readers to watch Star Wars films.
- Which of the following statements can be supported by information in the article?
 - Star Wars droids are less complex than the real-world robots of today.
 - Automation has had a mostly negative effect on society.
 - Some jobs now done by humans will one day be done by robots.
 - Robots’ presence in our lives is decreasing.

Constructed-Response Question

Directions: Write your answers to the questions below on the back of this paper or type them up on a computer.

- The article’s headline asks, “Could This Robot From Star Wars Ever Exist?” How does author Kristin Lewis answer that question in the article? Use text evidence to support your answer.

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“Could This Robot From Star Wars Ever Exist?” Quiz

Directions: Read “Could This Robot From Star Wars Ever Exist?” Then answer the questions below.

1. Which statement BEST expresses a central idea of the section “Advancing Technology”?

- Ⓐ NASA will soon use robots for space travel.
- Ⓑ Google AI can speak several languages.
- Ⓒ C-3PO has a unique personality.
- Ⓓ Robots are already part of our lives and will become an even bigger part as time goes by.

2. Which line best supports your answer to question 1?

- Ⓐ “Compared with C-3PO, who knows more than 6 million forms of communication, Google AI is pretty basic.”
- Ⓑ “Your friends would come from distant planets.”
- Ⓒ “In fact, many experts predict that in the future, every part of our society will be affected by robots.”
- Ⓓ “Star Wars droids operate at all levels of society.”

3. On page 27, Kristin Lewis writes that robots will likely provide “companionship” to humans in the future. *Companionship* most closely means

- Ⓐ help.
- Ⓑ friendship.
- Ⓒ protection.
- Ⓓ money.

4. According to Lewis, automation leads to more affordable food and clothing. Why might this be?

- Ⓐ Automation saves companies time and money, so companies can charge less for their products.
- Ⓑ Automation lowers the quality of food and clothing that companies produce.
- Ⓒ Automation leads to job losses.
- Ⓓ Automation leads to better-tasting food.

5. Rhetorical questions are questions asked not to get an answer but to make a point or get readers thinking. In the section “Good for Society?,” Lewis uses rhetorical questions to encourage readers to think about

- Ⓐ which Star Wars droid is the best.
- Ⓑ whether advances in AI and robotics will be good for the world.
- Ⓒ the various ways robots help people today.
- Ⓓ whether robots can be trusted.

6. Which of the following statements CANNOT be supported by information in the article?

- Ⓐ Star Wars droids are more complex than the real-world robots of today.
- Ⓑ Automation has both positive and negative effects on society.
- Ⓒ In five years, robotic pets will be very popular.
- Ⓓ Some jobs now done by humans will one day be done by robots.

Constructed-Response Question

Directions: Write your answers to the questions below on the back of this paper or type them up on a computer.

- 7.** The article’s headline asks, “Could This Robot From Star Wars Ever Exist?” Based on the article, how do you think author Kristin Lewis would answer that question? Support your claim with text evidence.