

What is the RACE strategy?

The RACE strategy teaches you to do what good writers do naturally, and can help you answer short-response questions. It helps you maintain a formal style and make sure you are answering all parts of the question with lots of detail. Using the RACE strategy will almost guarantee your answer is complete. RACE stands for:

R Re-state the question

Turn the question into a statement to introduce your paragraph.

*Example: How can students improve their study skills?
Students can improve their study skills by...*

A Answer all parts of the question

Keep in mind that there may be more than one part to the question.

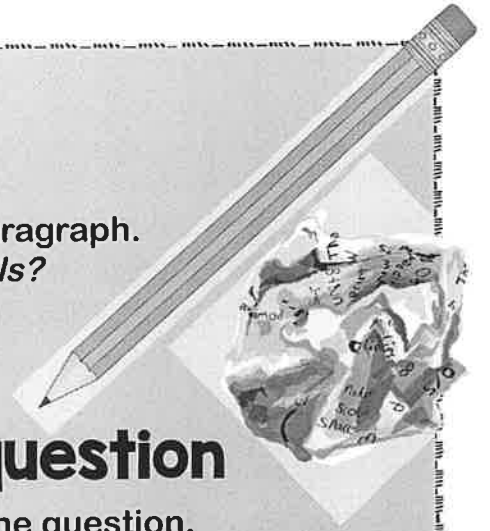
C Cite the text to support your answer

Support your answer with evidence from the text. If you use a direct quotation, use quotation marks. Make sure to introduce your evidence with a phrase like:

“For example,” “According to the text,” “The author states that...” etc.

E Explain your citation

Elaborate on why your textual evidence helps you prove your point. *Use phrases like: “this example shows how...,” “this quotation proves that...,” etc.*



Tips:

- ✓ While you read, circle and underline important sentences so they're easier to find later
- ✓ Check off each part of the RACE strategy as you write
- ✓ Always re-read your work to check for mistakes and make corrections

RACE strategy example: Healthy Teeth

Dentists say that we should all brush our teeth twice a day. Why do they say this? It is because brushing your teeth helps prevent cavities. When you eat, pieces of food get stuck to your teeth, and if the food stays there, it can cause damage. Sugar is especially damaging, and should be avoided. In addition to brushing your teeth twice a day, you should also floss to clean small pieces of food between the teeth. This will keep your mouth healthy and prevent cavities.



Use the RACE strategy answer the question: how can you avoid cavities?
Give reasons from the paragraph to support your answer.

R → You can avoid cavities by doing a few things. You can brush and floss your teeth every day. The paragraph
← **A**

C → says, "you should also floss to clean small pieces of food between the teeth" and "if the food stays there, it can cause damage." Cleaning your mouth helps you avoid cavities.
← **E**

Cite the source

according
to the
text, _____

for example,

the author says

proves
that...

for
instance,

in the paragraph,
it says
