

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

Over the course of this week and next week, your child will be exposed to **R.A.C.E.**; the writing strategy we use throughout the middle school to answer open-ended questions. Through this document, my goal is to inform you of how **R.A.C.E.** will be used across disciplines both in school and at home. Next week, your child will come home with an assignment requiring him/her to use this format, and by then students should be able to do so independently. However, should your child need any reminders, this can be a great tool to support him/her at home. Please review this document for a description, a sample response, the rubric being used to grade responses, and some helpful tools for assisting your child if needed). Thank you for your support!

What is **R.A.C.E.**?

R- Restate or rephrase the question to become a statement.

Ex: What color is the sky?

Rephrase= The color of the sky is...

A- Answer ALL parts of the question.

Some questions have more than one part, so it is helpful to underline and number the jobs you have.

Ex: (1) What is one prediction you have? (2) Why?

C- Cite evidence/give examples to support your answer.

1. Use a direct quote (use quotation marks and give credit to the source).

2. Paraphrase using your own words.

E- Explain & Extend

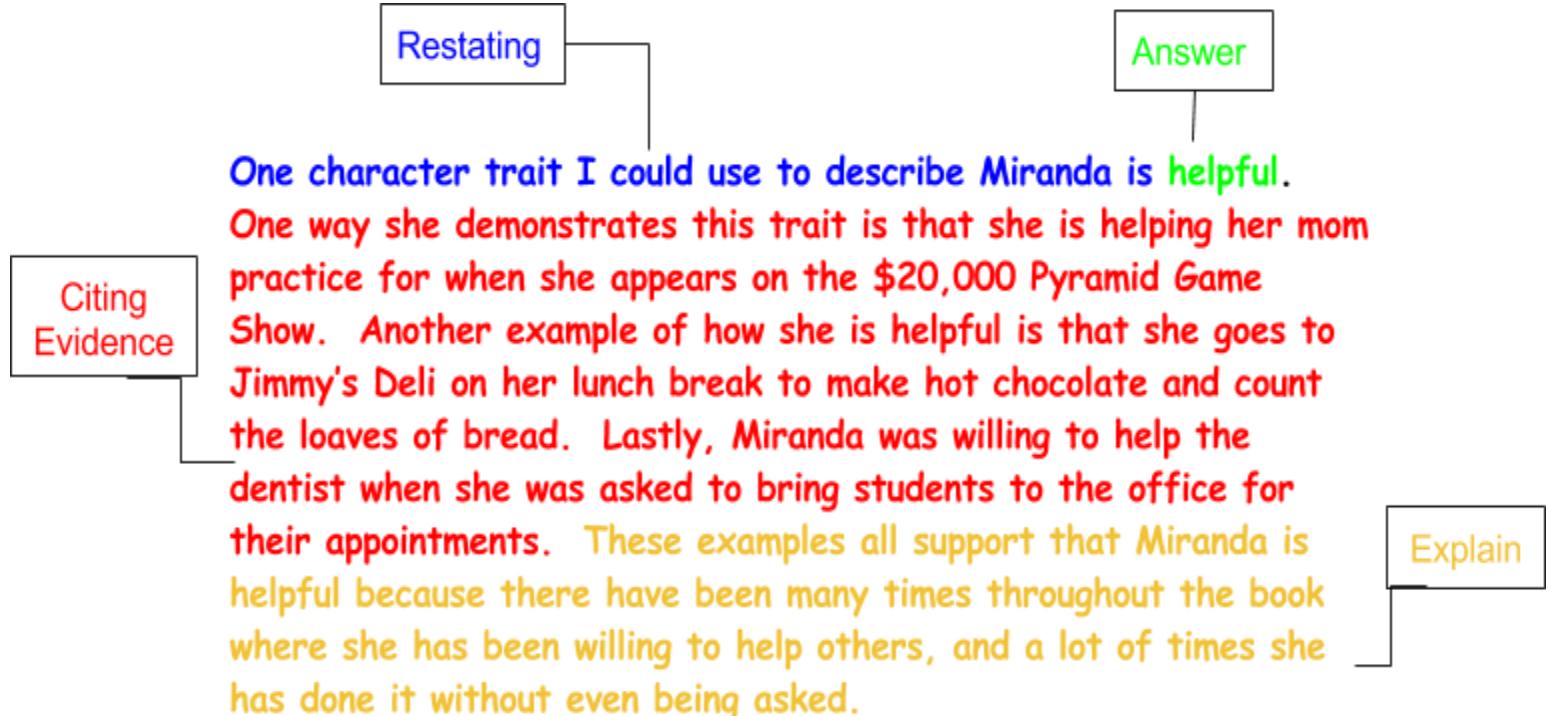
Your last sentence should explain how your evidence/examples support your answer. Tie your ideas together and refer back to the question you were asked.

Sample response using R.A.C.E.

Question:

What is one character trait you would use to describe Miranda, the narrator of the book When You Reach Me? What evidence do you have to support your answer?

Answer:





R.A.C.E. Rubric

	Exemplary	Meets	Progressing	Insufficient Evidence
Overall R.A.C.E. Components	Student's response addresses all components of R.A.C.E.	Student's response addresses all components of R.A.C.E.	Student's response addresses all but 1 or 2 components of R.A.C.E.	Student's response is missing more than 2 components of R.A.C.E.
Restate + Answer	<p>Student uses additional information or background knowledge to hook the reader.</p> <p>-There are many qualities the main character possesses, but I think she can be best described by</p>	<p>Student uses the language from the question to begin the response.</p> <p>-One character trait to describe ___ is ___</p>	<p>Student is missing some language from the question to begin response.</p>	<p>Student does not use the question to begin response.</p>
Cite Evidence (3 pieces)	<p>The student uses direct quotes and/or paraphrasing to directly support the answer.</p> <p>Quotes are properly punctuated.</p>	<p>The student paraphrases evidence to support the answer.</p>	<p>The student included some evidence that does not directly support the answer.</p>	<p>Evidence is missing or does not support the answer.</p>
Explain	<p>The student synthesizes how the evidence supports the answer and ties it back to the question.</p> <p>-As you can see, throughout the story the main character demonstrated the trait of selflessness by___</p>	<p>The student's closing sentence explains how the evidence supports the answer.</p> <p>-These examples show that the character was selfless because___.</p>	<p>The student has a closing statement, but it does not explain how the evidence supports the answer.</p> <p>-These examples show the character was selfless.</p>	<p>The student's response is missing an explanation.</p>
Transitions	<p>The student uses transitional phrases such as "Another reason why..." or "This also supports ___ because..."</p>	<p>The student uses transition words such as "First", "Next", or "Also"</p>	<p>The student may use some transition words.</p>	<p>The student's response does not include transitions</p>

R.A.C.E. Tools

Sentence Starters

Sentence starters
when working on "C"
(citing evidence)

Evidence Based Terms



Use the following phrases to provide proof for your answers:

The author wrote...
The author stated...
According to the text...
The text stated...
In the text, it said...
One example from the text is...
From the reading, I know that...
Based on what I read...
On page ___ it said...
On page ___ I noticed...
_____ because in the text _____...
For instance...
For example...

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Sentence starters when working on "E" (Explain how the evidence supports the answer)

This shows	This is because	This means
This reveals	These examples highlight	
These examples prove	This evidence proves	

Graphic Organizer

The graphic organizer on the next page can be used to help students organize their ideas before putting their response into paragraph form. This resource will be helpful to students, especially at the beginning of the journey, to understand how to use R.A.C.E.

Name: _____

Date: _____



Write the question you've been asked to answer. Underline and number the parts.



Restate the question (turn it into a statement to begin your answer with).



Answer the question



Cite: Give text evidence or examples to support your answer: direct quote or paraphrase



Explain how your evidence/examples support your answer.

Did you answer **ALL** parts of the question? Yes No