**Transforming Short Answers to Expository Essays**

It’s easier than you think!

**Don’t get caught up with the idea of having a “5-paragraph” essay. Yes, organization is important. However, your layout of your essay depends on what you bring into it.**

Here are easy ways to transform your “short answer” brain to a savvy essay writer.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Short Answer** | **Checklist** | **Expository Essay** |
| **A**nswer the prompt. |  | **A**nswer the prompt. (In an essay, this is known as the “**thesis statement**.”) |
| **C**ite evidence. (Give an **example**!)**Step 1**: Set up the scenario.* What’s going on?
* Who’s talking to whom?

**Step 2**: Use a quote.**Step 3**: If you’re **comparing** or **contrasting**, use the proper transitions. * “Comparing” transitions:
* Similarly,
* Also,
* At the same time,
* “Contrasting” transitions:
* However,
* On the other hand,
* On the contrary,

Then, repeat Steps 1 and 2. |  | **C**ite evidence. (Give an **example**!)**Step 1**: Set up the scenario.* What’s going on?
* Who is talking (if available)?

**Step 2**: Use a(n)…* famous quote
* historical moment
* analogy
* anecdote (a short and amusing or interesting story about a real incident or person)

**Step 3**: If you’re **comparing** or **contrasting**, use the proper transitions. * “Comparing” transitions:
* Similarly,
* Also,
* At the same time,
* “Contrasting” transitions:
* However,
* On the other hand,
* On the contrary,

Then, repeat Steps 1 and 2. |
| **E**xplain.HOW is your example proving your answer?Tips:Analyze your example.What techniques does the author use to show something important?What techniques does the author use to prove a point? |  | **E**xplain.HOW is your example proving your answer?Tips:Analyze your example.What techniques does the example use to show something important?What techniques does the example use to prove a point? |

**Hmm. It looks like it’s “ACE” either way! Enjoy!**