**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!**