



Southern Nevada  
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# The LeafLIT

## A Literacy Publication

### Constructed Response in Reading

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Constructed Response, also called written response, is a response, in writing, to a question or questions. In Nevada, students are asked to construct answers to questions on our reading, math, and science Criterion Referenced Tests. CR is a great way for students to explain their thinking, and it allows for more depth of knowledge to be demonstrated. Students are unable to guess their way to a right answer.

Typically, a reading/language arts constructed response item asks students to recall knowledge from a passage and demonstrate more complex cognitive behaviors such as organizing, summarizing, comparing, relating, analyzing, inferring, concluding, predicting, solving, and/or applying. In writing their answers, students will need to reflect on their work and clarify their thoughts. With experience, they will become more proficient at organizing their thinking and recording their ideas.

#### Teaching Students to Construct Answers

There are tools that we can provide for our students that will help them organize their thinking to better answer a constructed response question. Having tools that students can use often makes them more comfortable when faced with a constructed response item on a test. Practice with your students using highlighters to identify all details that are relevant to the CR question(s). Graphic organizers are another simple tool to help student organize their thinking before drafting a response. Next is a six-step process for teaching students to draft a constructed response.



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## 6 Steps for Drafting a Constructed Response

1. Reread the passage at least once and then reread the question carefully to decide all the parts it is asking for.
2. Your first sentence should restate the question, but not answer it.
3. Go back to the passage and collect the needed information. Highlight relevant details.
4. Organize the details into a logical order and use specific evidence from the text.
5. Read your answer and fix all mechanical errors.
6. Reread your answer to make sure you answered all the parts of the question and that it makes sense.

### **Assessing Constructed Responses**

The best tool for assessing constructed responses is a rubric. In the CRT test booklet, our state gives each student a general rubric for responding to constructed response questions. Then, each question is assessed using a rubric designed especially for that question and passage. The rubric also gives varying degrees of credit for correct or partially correct answers.

We also encourage you to show lots of student samples of constructed responses so they can see examples that have received different scores.

\*For more about how Constructed Response is used on the Nevada CRT, scoring guides, and student checklists visit the [Nevada Department of Education Website](http://www.nde.doe.nv.gov).

### **Constructed Response Resources:**

<http://www.wrtingfix.com>

[http://nde.doe.nv.gov/Assessment\\_CRT.htm](http://nde.doe.nv.gov/Assessment_CRT.htm)

