

SLAMS

*To write a good answer to a
question, SLAM it!!*

SLAMS

- SENTENCES: Write in complete sentences!
- LINES on the paper tell you how long your answer should be. About a $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of a page will provide enough room for a complete answer
- ANSWER what the question asks!
- MECHANICS: Fix up – punctuation, capitalization, spelling, grammar, and usage.
- SUPPORT your answer with details from the selection.

Rule 1: Answers to open-ended questions should always be written in complete sentences!

Exceptions:

- when you fill out a chart or other graphic organizer
- Directions say to list

Rule 2: The number of lines on the test is a rough guide to how long your answer should be.

- An ordinary sentence takes up about one and a half lines if you have big handwriting. If you write small, an average sentence fills up a line.
- So, if you're given 4 or 5 lines to write your answer on, you should probably write about 3 or 4 sentences.

Rule 3: Answer the question that the test asks!

- This may seem easy to do, but you must also be careful. Don't give lots of information about other things if they don't help answer the question.
- Use information from the selection to answer the question.

Question words

- Who (this means that the answer is a specific person or people)
- What (this means that the answer is a specific thing or object or idea)
- Where (this means that the answer is a location, place, position or setting)

Question words

- When (this means that the answer is a time, moment, occasion, year, date, age)
- How (this means way, manner or form)
- Why (this is asking for the significance and can also mean So What? Reason, evidence or explanation)
- Which (implies a choice, which one will you do?)

Rule 4: Mechanics means spelling, punctuation, and capitalization. Grammar and correct word usage may be included, too.

- You won't get a low score if you have a few minor spelling or usage mistakes, but if you get careless and have several errors your answer will be difficult to read and you may lose points.

Rule 5: Support your answer with details from the selection!

- This may be the most important rule in answering questions. Some students don't pay enough attention to this rule.
- The word support means to add information that explains or gives more information about your answer.
- Some or all of the support must come from the selection you are reading. It's OK to add your opinions, but you **MUST** include information from the selection!

Don't forget to SLAM it!

- S I wrote in complete sentences
- L My answers fill up most of the lines.
- A I answered the question that was asked.
- M I checked for mechanics.
- S I supported my answers with details from the story.