

RACE Writing Studio

Mission: In the Writing Studio, you will learn to write a strong answer to any reading question using RACE: Restate, Answer, Cite, Explain. First watch a model, then build one paragraph together step by step, and finally write one on your own.

Big question: How do I write a complete, text-based answer using RACE?

★ Warm-up: Spot the part

Label each sentence R, A, C, or E.

"This shows that Nora was very nervous." ✓ **E.**

"The text states, 'Her heart pounded so hard.'" ✓ **C.**

Key vocabulary

Restate	Put the question's words into your answer's first sentence.
Cite	Quote the text, word for word, in quotation marks.
Explain	Tell how the evidence proves your answer.
Prompt	The question you are answering.

1 Box 1

Read closely

In the simulator: Read "The Lighthouse Steps" and press ✓ **I finished reading.**

At the END of the story, how does Nora feel about being brave?

- ☐ She knows being brave means acting even when scared ☐ She is still too scared to climb
☐ She thinks bravery is only for grown-ups

✓ **She knows being brave means acting even when scared**

Dissect the prompt

In the simulator: Tap the key words in the prompt (who, what to explain, and what you must use).

What did you notice?

2 Box 2

R: Restate

Write the Restate: turn the question into the start of your answer.

Look for: Names the character; Uses the word "change"; Mentions beginning and end; at least 8 words

A: Answer

Write the Answer: HOW does Nora change? (From ___ to ___.)

Look for: Describes the beginning (afraid); Describes the end (brave); at least 6 words

3 Box 3

C: Find the best evidence

In the simulator: Highlight a sentence that PROVES Nora became brave.

What did you notice?

C: Cite

Write the Cite sentence: introduce and quote your evidence.

Look for: Introduces the quote; an exact quote from the text; at least 8 words

4 Box 4

E: Explain

Write the Explain: how does your quote prove that Nora changed?

Look for: Starts the explanation; Connects the evidence to the change; at least 12 words

5 Box 5

Put it together

Revise and combine your RACE paragraph.

R + A

Look for: Names Nora; Beginning; End; at least 12 words

C

Look for: an exact quote from the text; at least 8 words

E

Look for: Explains; at least 10 words

6 Box 6

You do: new text

In the simulator: Read "Jayden's Volcano" (it is now in the reading panel) and finish reading.

What went wrong with Jayden's volcano?

☐ The baking soda got wet and didn't fizz ☐ He forgot the vinegar ☐ The judges knocked it over

✓ **The baking soda got wet and didn't fizz**

7 Box 7

You do: a full RACE answer

Write all four parts on your own.

Restate

Look for: Names Jayden; Uses "learn" or "lesson"; at least 6 words

Answer

Look for: States the lesson; at least 6 words

Cite

Look for: Introduces the quote; an exact quote from the text; at least 8 words

Explain

Look for: Explains; Connects to the lesson; at least 12 words

8 Box 8

Legend: grade a RACE 🏆 Legend only

What is Kai's paragraph missing? Choose all.

Choose all that apply.

- ☐ A restate with the key words of the prompt ☐ A clear answer naming the lesson ☐ A quote from the text
☐ An explanation starting with "This shows"

✓ **A restate with the key words of the prompt; A clear answer naming the lesson; A quote from the text; An explanation starting with "This shows"**

Exit ticket: answer the big question in your own words

How do I write a complete, text-based answer using RACE?

Look for: RACE is a recipe for strong answers. Restate the question in your first sentence. Answer it clearly. Cite evidence with a quote from the text and an introduction ("The text states..."). Explain how the evidence proves your answer ("This shows...").

Completion codes

Students see a code like **ABC-I3** when they finish. The first part must match below. The letter is the level (E = Explorer, I = Investigator, L = Legend), and the number at the end is how many stars they earned.

Level	Code starts with
🔍 Explorer	18A-E
🔍 Investigator	1M4-I
🏆 Legend	1TN-L

 Watch for these misconceptions

- "The theme is one word, like friendship." That is a topic.
- "A summary includes everything that happened." It includes only the most important events.
- "There is only one correct theme." Stories can have several themes if the text supports them.