

RACERS Format Explained

RACERS is an acronym used to help identify the writing process for text-dependent questions. When you are asked to answer a question that uses a book / passage for the answer, you might be creating a RACERS.

Let's look at what the letters stand for and how to use them correctly:

Restate – This means you turn the question around into a statement and answer it. You will need to include the title of the book / passage and the author's name.

Answer – Be sure to answer all parts of the question and include a 'key word / key phrase'. A key word will be the focus of your response, and it helps you to stay centered on the writing process. Define this term (in your own words) for the reader.

Cite – At this time, you are using the book / passage to prove your point. Choose a part of the passage that helps build your case. You will include the author's name and page number in parenthesis. You can put quotation marks around the chosen words, or you can reword the section yourself. Either way, you will need the author and page number to show the reader that you took the material from the passage.

Elaborate – In this section, you are expected to explain why the information you chose is helpful in proving your point. *In your own words*, explain how the section you chose supports your key word / phrase. Think – how does this evidence support what I want the reader to understand?

Repeat – Your teacher may ask you to complete a full RACERS. The second 'R' means that you will be repeating steps C and E again. You will stay focused on the key word / phrase that you started with and add another citation and elaboration to prove your point.

Sum up – Now it is time to put some closure to your writing. Let the reader know you are wrapping things up by starting with a closing transition, restating the key word / phrase, and including the author and the title again. A conclusion is not time to introduce any new material.