

The logo for MAXSCHOLAR, with 'MAX' in blue and 'SCHOLAR' in orange, set against a yellow background.

MAXSCHOLAR

TAKING READING TO THE MAX!

www.maxscholar.com

STRATEGIES FOR READING & WRITING

Open-Ended Responses

To all the readers in the country, we dedicate this workbook to you. The workbook will help you develop a strong foundation in reading and writing. Reading and writing are essential to life. Keep working on it. You will learn how to read with understanding while improving your writing skills.

--The MaxScholar Team

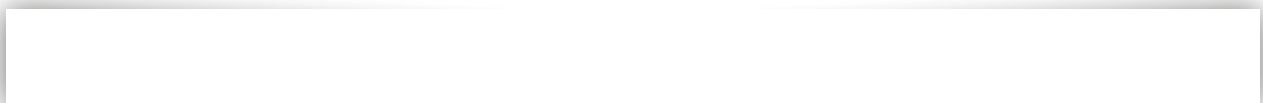
MAXSCHOLAR

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Open-Ended Responses

Introduction

There has been a change in what is expected from students in the past few years. It is now important that all students develop critical thinking skills. Instead of traditional multiple choice questions, students are now required to answer questions in paragraph or essay formats, providing evidence for their responses obtained from the text they have just read or from prior knowledge. These tasks, which we call “open-ended responses,” require students to construct their own responses, rather than choosing them from a list of multiple choice options prepared by others. Many students have never been asked to respond in any way except answering multiple choice questions or filling in a bubble on a machine-graded test. To many students, the mere thought of responding to these types of tasks can be challenging.

As in the rest of the MaxScholar Reading & Writing series, we believe in teaching a method, or, as we call it, a “strategy,” then providing extensive drill and practice using this strategy. The passages that we have selected are of high interest to students.

Steps

1. Carefully read the passage.
2. Read the open-ended question.
3. Go back to the passage. Highlight the topic in one color such as blue, using a blue highlighter; highlight the main idea of the first paragraph in a different color, such as green, using a green highlighter; then highlight using a third color such as yellow, as many words or phrases that you think might be pertinent to the question asked. Alternatively, you can selectively underline the topic, main idea, and details in colored pencils or write the details in the margins of the page.
4. Use the graphic organizer that we provide to help you plan your response. We have provided many different types of graphic organizers, depending upon the type of response required. For each passage, you will need to restate the question briefly or your conclusion briefly, then complete the answers required or cite the evidence requested. Be brief in your graphic organizer. You can use abbreviations and phrases. Do not write complete sentences.
5. Using the lines below the graphic organizer, write a single paragraph that incorporates the question and the evidence requested. End with a strong conclusion.

Example

Passage 1 shows you how we would recommend you highlight (page 3) or selectively underline (page 4) or write in the margins (page 5), then use the graphic organizer provided. Last, you will see an example of a paragraph that answers the question requested.

Example

(Read the passage and the questions that follow on the next page.)

American Civil War

The American Civil War was a dark time in the history of our country. The United States was founded on the concept of “freedom.” At least, that was what the Northern states believed from the time the country was founded. The Southern states interpreted things differently. They allowed slavery. That meant allowing people to be owned by others, to work under terrible conditions, to receive little or no pay, and not be free. The people of the Southern states believed that slave owners should have the freedom to do what they wanted, including owning slaves. This eventually led to war.

The Civil War lasted from 1861 to 1865. It started with the election of Abraham Lincoln as U.S. President. Eleven Southern slave states declared their secession from the U.S. and formed their own nation, which they called “The Confederate States of America” or “The Confederacy.” Their President was Jefferson Davis. The remaining twenty-five states supported the U.S. government. They were called “The Union.” Abraham Lincoln was the Union’s President.

The war began when the South fired upon Ft. Sumter. General Ulysses S. Grant led the North. General Robert E. Lee led the South. This war separated the people of the country. They fought many battles. In some cases, brothers fought against brothers. Thirty percent of all Southern men aged, 18 to 40 years old, were killed. The war ended with the South surrendering, and slavery was outlawed everywhere in the nation. The document of surrender was signed at the Appomattox Court House in Virginia on April 9, 1865. The Civil War was considered the first industrial war because of the use of the railway, telegraph, steamships, and mass-produced weapons. In reality, however, it was a war of states’ rights and a war of freedom.

HIGHLIGHT THIS PASSAGE

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SELECTIVE UNDERLINING

The American Civil War was a dark time in the history of our country. The United States was founded on the concept of “freedom.” At least, that was what the Northern states believed from the time the country was founded. The Southern states interpreted things differently. They allowed slavery. That meant allowing people to be owned by others, to work under terrible conditions, to receive little or no pay, and not be free. The people of the Southern states believed that slave owners should have the freedom to do what they wanted, including owning slaves. This eventually led to war.

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MARGIN NOTE-TAKING

People owned by others; work under terrible conditions; not be free

The American Civil War was a dark time in the history of our country. The United States was founded on the concept of “freedom.” At least, that was what the Northern states believed from the time the country was founded. The Southern states interpreted things differently. They allowed slavery. That meant allowing people to be owned by others, to work under terrible conditions, to receive little or no pay, and not be free. The people of the Southern states believed that slave owners should have the freedom to do what they wanted, including owning slaves. This eventually led to the war.

Separated people of country

This war lasted from 1861 to 1865. It started with the election of Abraham Lincoln as U.S. President. Eleven Southern slave states declared their secession from the U.S. and formed their own nation, which they called “The Confederate States of America” or “The Confederacy.” Their President was Jefferson Davis. The remaining twenty-five states supported the U.S. government. They were called “The Union.” Abraham Lincoln was the Union’s President.

Brothers fought against brothers

The war began when the South fired upon Ft. Sumter. General Ulysses S. Grant led the North. General Robert E. Lee led the South. This war separated the people of the country. They fought many battles. In some cases, brothers fought against brothers. Thirty percent of all Southern men aged, 18 to 40 years old, were killed. The war ended with the South surrendering, and slavery was outlawed everywhere in the nation. The document of surrender was signed at the Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865. The Civil War was considered the first industrial war because of the use of the railway, telegraph, steamships, and mass-produced weapons. In reality, however, it was a war of states’ rights and a war of freedom.

30% of all Southern men killed

What can you conclude about the author's theme? Provide at least 2 pieces of evidence from the text to support your conclusion.

Use the graphic organizer to plan what you are going to write, then answer the questions, using three to five sentences.

Conclusion: The American Civil War was a dark time in the history of our country.

evidence: People owned by others; worked under terrible conditions; not be free

evidence: War separated people; brothers fought against brothers

evidence: 30% of all Southern men killed

The American Civil War was a dark time in the history of our country. A major conflict was the right to own slaves, which meant people who were owned by others, who worked in terrible conditions, and were not free. The war separated people, and many brothers fought against their own brothers. In the end 30% of all Southern men were killed. It seems like a terrible war was fought over human rights.

2. Mother Teresa

Mother Teresa was a religious sister whose mission in life was helping the poorest people in the world. She was born with the name, Agnes Bojaxhiu, on August 26, 1910 in Albania. Agnes knew from a very early age that she wanted to follow some sort of religious life.

A few days before her 18th birthday, Agnes committed herself fully to the life of a religious person. She left her childhood home and joined the Sisters of Loreto in Ireland. She first taught at a school in India, dividing her time between teaching, studying, and prayer. When she took her first vows in 1931, she chose Teresa for her religious name. Soon Sister Teresa became aware that she was to work among the poorest of the poor.

To the traditional evangelical vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, Sister Teresa added a fourth vow. It was wholehearted and free service to the poorest of the poor. With this, Teresa declared that serving the poor was a central part of her life as a religious person.

From her interaction with the children at her school, she became aware of their other needs. Soon she was also giving out limited medical care and food. Education was of little value to children who might die of malnutrition. That led her to focus her energy on creating a medical care facility for those who could not afford doctors. Her work was soon noticed by Indian political leaders, who encouraged her to continue. The Indian people started calling her "Mother Teresa" after that.

Mother Teresa next opened the first "Home for the Dying." No matter what their circumstances, religious beliefs, or illnesses, they all received the same care from gentle, loving hands. It was not long before word of the "Home for the Dying" spread, and others began flocking in. One of her great sources of sadness early on was the number of children who came to the hospitals and clinics. To serve their needs she opened the "Children's Home of the Immaculate Heart" in 1955.

By the mid-1970s Mother Teresa had become a "household name." This led to her being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Mother asked the committee to cancel the elegant dinner scheduled in her honor that they had planned, and to donate the money, instead, to buy food for the poor. The committee offered to donate the \$7,000 budgeted for the five-course dinner to the Missionaries of Charity and still hold the banquet. Mother replied that any funds available should be donated, and no dinner held at all.

Unfortunately, there was also increased criticism of Mother's work and philosophy. Some criticized her for not being more politically active in calling for structural changes in the world's economies to end poverty. Others criticized her for not giving her dying patients more pain medication. Mother faced her worst "medical enemy" yet, AIDS, in the late 1970s. It was soon killing thousands of people worldwide, especially in underdeveloped countries like India. She built new centers throughout the world to meet their needs. She traveled to the most desolate places on Earth to help people who needed her the most. Before she died, she had established 610 missions in 123 countries. She received many, many awards for helping the poor and sick. Although she died in 1997, her spirit lived on in her work.

