

Tips for Answering Open Response to Reading Questions

- Circle key words in the question to remind you about what you are answering.
- Check to see if the question requires you to pick an opinion - e.g to begin your answer with a “yes” or “no”.
- When you see the phrase “specific details” (and you likely will on every short answer question) go back to the reading selection and find a very specific detail. For example, a direct quote (use quotation marks), a statistic or a phrase from the selection.
- Don't leave the “specific details” hanging - always explain how your specific details support your answer. It is better to over-explain your idea than to under-explain your idea.
- The person who marks your test should never have to guess at what you were trying to communicate.
- Make sure your specific details match your opinion or main idea.
- Re-read your answer and compare it to the question. Have you answered the question that was asked? If not, rewrite your new answer below your original answer and then cross out your old answer. Be sure to check over your answer for spelling, punctuation and grammar