

ABBC for Writing a Constructed Response

A constructed response paragraph is written to answer a question prompt or respond to a petition prompt. It should minimally contain the following structure in order to effectively express the writer's thinking and knowledge related to the prompt. If writers have another significant supporting detail, they most certainly can add it to the paragraph with an additional B.

The acronym for writers to remember is ABBC. It's as simple as ABC!

A—Announce or introduce. Just as morning announcements in the school broadly tell what will happen during the day, the introductory sentence(s) in a constructed response paragraph broadly announces what will follow in general terms—a premise meant to grab the reader's attention.

B—Build up. The writer elaborates and expands a first supporting detail for the premise stated in the introduction. Cite the source of information.

B—Build up. The writer elaborates and expands a second supporting detail for the premise stated in the introduction. Cite the source of information.

C—Connect back to conclude with a convincing statement (3 Cs). The author writes a closing sentence(s) that connects back to the premise stated in the introduction to conclude with a strong, convincing statement.

Transition words, effectively selected, guide the reader smoothly, sentence-to-sentence, across the paragraph. Teaching and modeling how to decide which transition word to use where and when is essential. It's an important component in the craftsmanship of good writing.

Figure 7.2: ABBC for writing a constructed response.

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