How to Write Responses to Open-Ended Questions

To Answer Well, You Must Use SLAMS

- SLAMS is a simple way of following the guidelines to writing good responses.
- They will be used as a guide in **all** your classes this year!
- SLAMS will ensure success on the NJASK!

What are SLAMS?

- **S**entences!
- **L**ine Length = Answer Length
- **A**nswer the Question
- **M**echanics Are Important
- **S**upport Your Answer with Details

Sentences

- Answers to open-ended questions should always be written in **complete sentences**.

Line Length=Answer Length

- The **number of blank lines** on the test answer sheet is a rough guide to **how long your answer should be**.
- If you are given a whole page for an answer, use about a page for your response.
- If you are given three lines, your answer should be about that long.

Answer the Question!

- Answer the question the test asks.
- A good way to make sure you do this is by **restating the question in your answer**.
- For example, if you were asked, “How is eighth grade different than seventh grade?”
- To answer, start by writing, “Eighth grade is different than seventh grade…”

Mechanics Are Important

- Grammar
- Spelling
- Punctuation
- Capitalization
- Word Choice
- Sentence Structure (fragments, run-ons)

Support Your Answer With Details

- Support your answers with details from the material you are given.
- You **must** include information from the reading or material to support your answer.
- Without support, you don’t have an answer, just an opinion.

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A Good Answer SLAMS the Question!