Constructed Open-Ended Response Formula

*For Keystone Open-Ended*

*Could be used for exam open-ended (in lieu of a full-blown essay question)*

*Could be used for short literature-response ideas (and then could be a springboard for a full essay)*

In looking at the written responses that garnered a “3” score on the Literature Keystone, the following traits seemed evident. I am using this formula to train students to answer Keystones at a “3” level. From what I can tell, the scoring seems to be a correct answer and two examples.

The Keystone material scoring is based on content only (not spelling/grammar) for all tests except the Composition one (if it ever materializes).

Formula:

“Analyze what Howard’s thoughts throughout the passage reveal about his personality. Use information from the passage to support your analysis,” (15, Pennsylvania Keystone Literature Item Sample 2011, Module 1).

Minimum 6 sentences:

1. Opening statement that rephrases the prompt and gives a basic answer.
“*Howard’s thoughts reveal* that he is sentimental about his hometown.”
2. Give first example from the text, paraphrasing or quoting.

“For example, as he looks out of the train window on the trip home, he feels pride for being a ‘Western Man.’”

1. Analyze/explain why Example 1 supports answer in opener.

“He thinks the green hills with trees that circle the town are beautiful and majestic and is excited to see them again.”

1. Give second example from the text, paraphrasing or quoting.

“Also, he recognizes the men near the salt barrels and smiles because they are unchanged from when he was in his hometown last.”

1. Analyze/explain why Example 2 supports answer in opener.

<example from Sample does not do this as a sentence, but instead as part of the previous one.>

1. Concluding statement to tie it all together (not “And this is why…”)

<example from Sample does not do this; instead has a third example and just ends.>

“Finally, as he rides with his uncle to his family home, he enjoys riding in silence, lost in the memories of growing up on a farm and the beauty of the landscape.”