**Steps to answering The Constructed Response Question**

1. **Review the Constructed Response Question BEFORE reading the passage.**

This sets a purpose for your reading and alerts you to relevant information in the passage.

2. **Focus the Topic**

During reading, highlight, underline, and circle information relevant to the question you will answer.

3. **Gather Textual Evidence**

* **Identify** common themes, repetitions, and patterns.
* **Categorize** elements, tone, and narrative style.
* **Highlight** characterization, setting, and foreshadowing.
* **Label** character types, symbols, and metaphors.

4. **Introduce, Evidence, Analyze**

Learning through writing and literary analysis happens through stages. At this stage of writing, you have already accomplished remembering, understanding, and applying. Next comes analysis.

***Introduce***

* Introduce the point using clear transitions or lead-ins placed before your evidence. Next, it's important to provide evidence that supports the main topic in order to convince the reader of the stated point of view. There are a few ways students can add their evidence.

***Evidence***

* **Quotation:** When providing evidence word for word from a primary or secondary source, students should be reminded to use quotation marks only if the words have not been altered.
* **Summary:** Students summarize a piece of evidence by restating it in a shorter form using their own words.
* **Paraphrase:** Students explain a piece of evidence using their own words.

***Analyze***

Ask yourself, "Why is this piece of evidence important?" Be sure to go beyond a mere description of your evidence, but rather go into ideas that are convincing, argumentative, and defend your position. Fully explain and synthesize how the evidence supports your answer.

**5. Conclusion**

A strong conclusion outlines the main ideas of the essay. You can focus on concluding with what you hope to get out of the analysis, or provide closure to the topic. Most importantly, you should use the conclusion as an opportunity to provide your own opinion and reflection about their process of analyzing the text.