

Critical Reading and the RLA Extended Response

Steve Schmidt

Tuesdays for Teachers – October 22, 2024



Before We Get Started



During the webinar, **please:**

1. Keep your sound and video **muted**. This will limit background noise.
2. Ask questions using the **chat function**.
3. Keep in mind that the session is being **recorded** for future viewing.
4. The session and all associated materials will be posted on the GED website at: <https://www.ged.com/educators-admins/professional-development/>

Welcome to Tuesdays for Teachers Steve Schmidt!

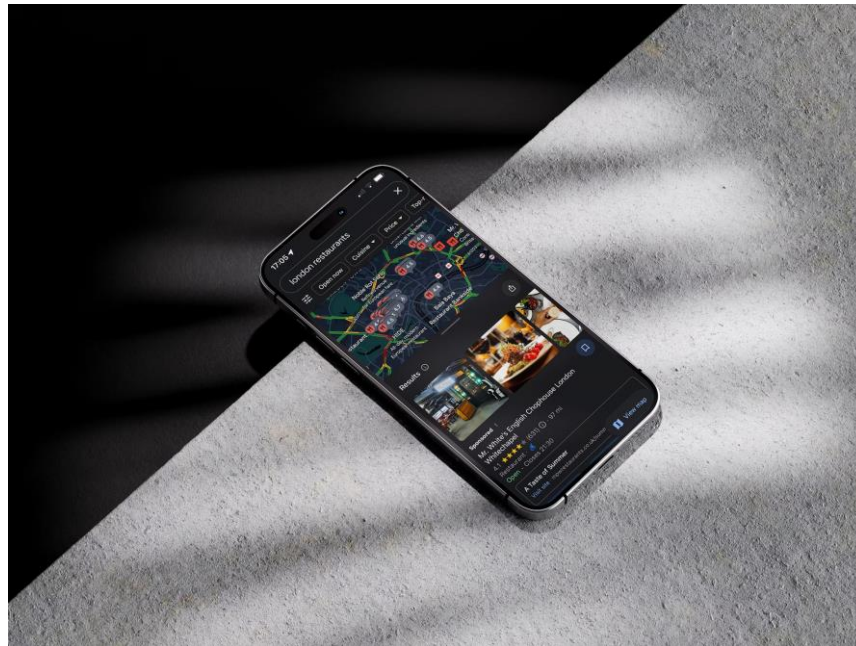


GED® RLA Extended Response Overview

- Students read two short passages or one longer passage with both sides of the argument and respond to a prompt
- Prompt: “In your response, develop an argument in which you explain how one position is better supported than the other. Incorporate relevant and specific evidence from both sources to support your argument.”
- Students can successfully argue that either position is better supported

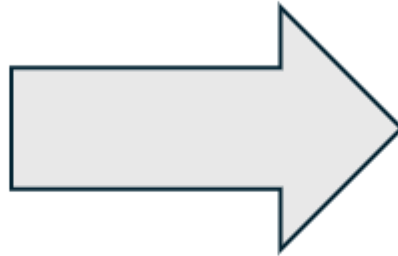
Understanding Arguments

- Instructor Feedback: “My students could not tell me what the argument is”
- How can we build a bridge to argument writing?
- One answer: Using reviews



Move from the . . .

Known



Unknown

Guidelines for Teaching Argument Writing Using Reviews

- Analyze both positive and negative reviews
- Ask questions like:
 - What is the author's purpose?
 - Do you think their argument is effective? Why or why not?
 - What patterns did you notice in what was effective and not effective?
- Invite students to write their own reviews

Analyzing Reviews

What's the author's purpose?

Who is their audience?

Is their argument effective? Why or why not?



Steven Schmidt

10 reviews

★★★★★ a year ago - [Edit](#) [Delete](#)

I give Cars Plus the highest possible rating and would buy from them again. We recently bought a used car here and helped family members buy another. Mitch was a pleasure to deal with on both sales. The whole process went very smoothly. Mitch was genuinely concerned about giving us a fair price, and he did. The only charge beyond the sales price was sales tax and tag. Everyone we dealt with was pleasant and was happy to have our business. Thank you Cars Plus for a great car buying experience! This is the way buying cars should be!



Let's Look at Another Review

What's the author's purpose?

Who is their audience?

Is their argument effective? Why or why not?



Steven Schmidt

10 reviews

★★★★☆ a year ago - [Edit](#) [Delete](#)

On the plus side: Randy Marion has a wide selection of cars, offers them at a good price, and both salespeople we dealt with were nice.

On the down side: Both cars we wanted to test drive had issues. One needed a jump start and the other's tire pressure warning light was on. The upholstery on most of the used cars we looked at was dirty.

The big issue is what's behind the scenes. Once you start to talk price, you'll find out about several large nonnegotiable fees. On the Toyota Corolla we looked at, there was a close to \$900 fee for some protective coating and a close to \$900 document fee. There was also an additional \$300 tax on the document fee. These fees moved the needle from a good deal for the buyer to a good deal for Randy Marion. The salesman from the dealer where we ended up buying our car said, "It's practices like these that give car dealers a bad name."



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Parts of an Argument

- **Claim:** A statement that something is true or should be done that others might not agree with.
 - **Example:** Cars Plus is the best car dealer in town.
- **Reason:** Statements that support the claim.
 - **Example:** The staff is very friendly.
- **Evidence:** Information that supports the reasons like facts, statistics, data, and expert testimony.
 - **Example:** I received a friendly greeting when I arrived. The salesperson listened to what I wanted. The finance manager was funny and joked around with us.

Types of Evidence Graphic Organizer

Type of Evidence	Definition	Samples Supporting an Author's Claim
Factual	Truthful statements that cannot be denied. Statements that the average person may know or which can be proven.	The bill will ease traffic congestion.
Statistics or Data	Numerical facts; can be presented in raw numbers, percentages, or fractions.	A 2001 study in Texas showed that bypasses reduce traffic through towns as much as 75%.
Examples or Anecdotes	Real-life situations, events, or experiences that illustrate a position; anecdotal stories that help explain an author's claim.	. . . held town meetings to gather opinions from her constituents about revitalizing the economy of the 12 th District.
Expert Testimony	The observations or conclusions of someone who is considered highly knowledgeable because he/she is an expert in a particular field of study or occupation; someone who has first-hand knowledge and experience.	Some officials anticipated a 30% increase in highway traffic.
Logical Reasoning	An explanation which draws conclusions that the reader can understand; a discussion which helps the reader understand or make sense out of facts or examples offered.	An increase in travelers will attract national motel and restaurant chains along the highway route.
Emotional Appeal	Use of sympathy, fear, loyalty, etc. to persuade; manipulates the reader's emotions – ethos, pathos, logos	Representative Walls heard residents' concerns for jobs in the district.

Use a T Chart to Collect Evidence

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Finding the Evidence in the Prompt - Pro

“This bill funds the expansion of Highway 17 from a two-lane highway to a four-lane thoroughfare. It will positively affect the town of Oak Falls,” Walls said. As part of the expansion, Highway 17 will move two miles east of the town of Oak Falls. The bill will ease traffic congestion and create job opportunities during and after construction.

Last year, Representative Walls held town hall meetings to gather opinions from her constituents about revitalizing the economy in the 12th District. Two years ago, Turnaround Motors and Bell Camera closed their factory doors. The result has been high unemployment with no immediate prospects for new businesses. Representative Walls heard residents’ concerns for jobs in the district.

Improving the highway means jobs for local construction workers. Once completed, the highway will bring more long-distance travelers into the area. Some officials anticipate a 30% increase in highway traffic due to the ease of traveling on the improved Highway 17. An increase in travelers will attract national motel and restaurant chains along the highway route. These national businesses will mean permanent jobs for residents.

Finding the Evidence in the Prompt - Con

“The Gazette reports that because Highway 17 runs through six states, construction will be paid for with federal road funds. That means some of our federal taxes will pay for a road that I believe will harm our town. I also believe that few residents of Oak Falls will use the road. Our town and district will lose money as a result of this highway bypass paid for by our tax dollars.

The road construction jobs are only a temporary bandage on the wound made by our two manufacturers closing their doors. Once the road construction is finished, only minimum wage jobs will remain.

In fact, the highway will bypass four cities in our district alone. Each of these towns will lose business because fewer travelers will pass through them and eat, stay overnight, or purchase gas. There is no guarantee that tourists will drive an extra two miles into our town if national chain motels and restaurants are built at the highway exits. The 2001 study Representative Walls references does show that bypasses reduce traffic and noise in towns, but the study also shows they have a negative impact on local businesses.

T Chart Example

For Highway 17 Expansion	Against Highway 17 Expansion
<p>Provide jobs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Two factories recently closed- There is high unemployment- Provide construction jobs- 30% traffic increase will bring motels/restaurants, create jobs- Historical features will become tourist attractions helping shops/restaurants <p>Ease traffic congestion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Stop 18 wheelers in town which will reduce road maintenance costs- 2001 Texas study bypass reduces town traffic by 75%	<p>Harm the town</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Few local residents will use the road- Construction jobs are temporary bandage- Only minimum wage jobs left after construction done- Four cities will be impacted by fewer travelers passing through- 2001 study showed bypass negatively affect local businesses, cause town to lose money- Travelers will stay at highway exits, not in town <p>Federal road funds used for project that harms the town</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- If state tax funds used, voters would have struck it down- Rep. Walls did not listen to townspeople's concerns

Common Reasons for Low ER Scores

- Students do not write a full response
- Students lack a structure and appropriate tone
- Students have issues with sentence structure
- Students summarize instead of analyze



Score Improvement: Analysis vs. Summary

- If I tell you I'm a great songwriter but all I do is play other people's songs, how would you know how good I am?
- This happens on the RLA test when students summarize an argument instead of analyzing it!

Summary	Analysis
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who, what, when, where• No original thinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why are you using this evidence?• How does it support your argument?• Original thinking

Summary




Cut Copy Paste Undo

Now the safety issue comes up again, in the year following the change from DST. One study shows pedestrian fatalities increased immediately after clocks were set back in the fall. Arguments continue with another study that shows 22 pedestrians were killed in the week following the end of DST compared with 65 pedestrians killed the week before DST ended. It is also stated that the adjustment period drivers endure each year is a dangerous time for pedestrians, and DST may be the reason. Instead of a gradual transition in the morning or afternoon by just minutes of sunlight each day, the immediate shift of one hour forward or backward fails to provide drivers and pedestrians time to adjust. These opponents believe the consideration of cost and confusion are simply not worth all of the trouble. With everything there are pros and cons no matter what, so in the end we can only hope the good outweighs the bad.

Copied from author's words and ideas

Analysis



Evidence

Your explanation

Evidence

Your explanation

Cut Copy Paste Undo
However, the author of the letter is correct in the
will not create a boom in the district's economy, or
caused by the closures in the manufacturing plants,
release... believe. The road construction does not
solve... unemployment in the town. In
add... letter counters the argumen
mote... gas stations along the high
create permanent jobs for the residents of the town
that, "...only minimum wage jobs will remain." This is
argument also, as unemployed residents that need en
income to support a household would not be much better off.
Providing restaurant or motel jobs is very unlikely to feed or
support an entire family. It will not pick up the laid-off employees
of the manufacturing plants, who may have worked for many
years towards promotions and a pension.

Using ICE to Explain Evidence

I ntroduce	Another reason Representative Walls has a weak argument is because there is no guarantee her predictions will come true.
C ite	She says that the new bypass will bring a 30% traffic increase resulting in jobs being created when national hotel chains and restaurants move to the area.
E xplain/Elaborate	Just because we build it doesn't mean they will come. There is no guarantee that any businesses will move in the area just because a new highway is being built. Motels and restaurants move into areas where they know they will attract business. This small-town area may not be large enough to bring in these national chains.

Phrases to Describe Strengths and Weaknesses

Phrases to Discuss Passage Strengths (+)	Phrases to Discuss Passage Weaknesses (-)
better supported	unsupported personal opinion
reliable evidence	weak evidence
sound reasons	contradictory evidence
valid	invalid
logical	weak logic (illogical)
reliable (knowledgeable, unbiased, credible, etc.) source(s)	(This passage) lacks sound reasons.... (or any other phrases from the <i>strengths</i> column)
significant evidence	uncited sources (source is not identified)
recent sources	evidence is out-of-date (or no source is included)
relevant reasons / evidence	biased sources
substantiated evidence	unsubstantiated evidence
expert testimony	personal attacks (name-calling)
sufficient reasons / evidence	insufficient reasons / evidence

What's the Purpose of Scaffolding?



Use Writing Frames: Intro Paragraph

_____ makes the claim that _____

_____ makes the claim that _____

The best argument is _____

because _____

Use Writing Frames: Body Paragraphs

The first reason _____ is better is because _____

Evidence supporting this reason is _____

This evidence shows that _____

Questions, Comments, Thoughts?



Classroom Resources

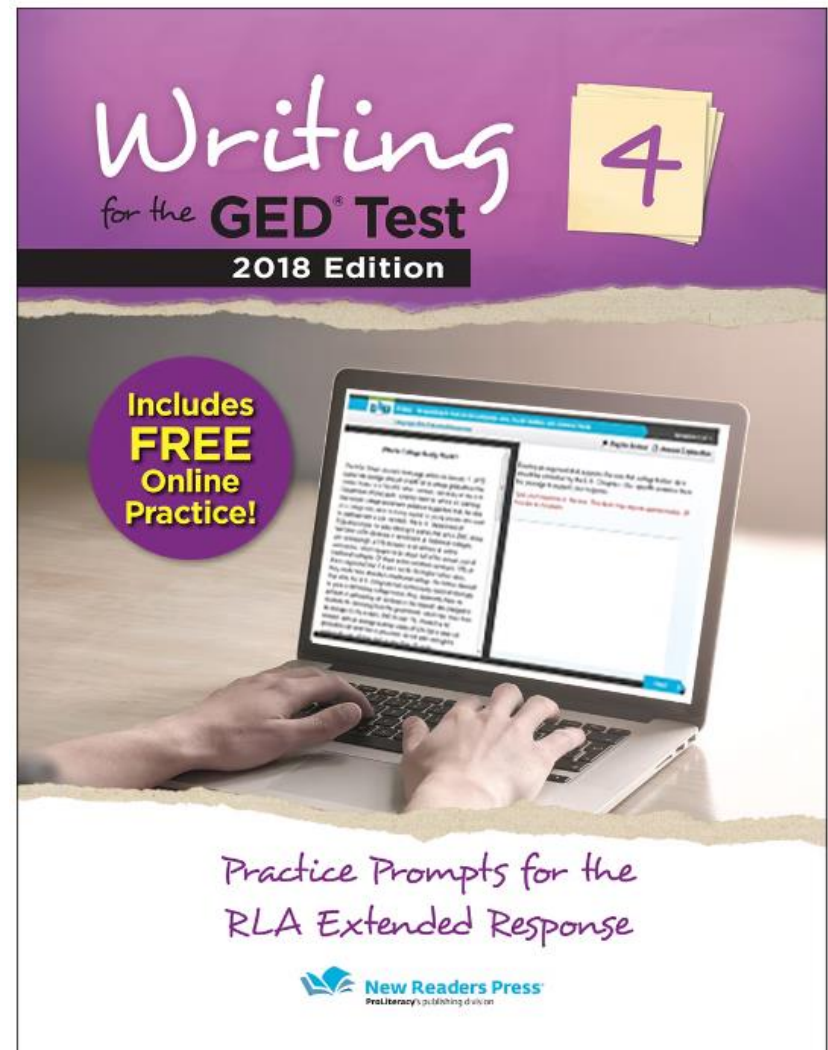
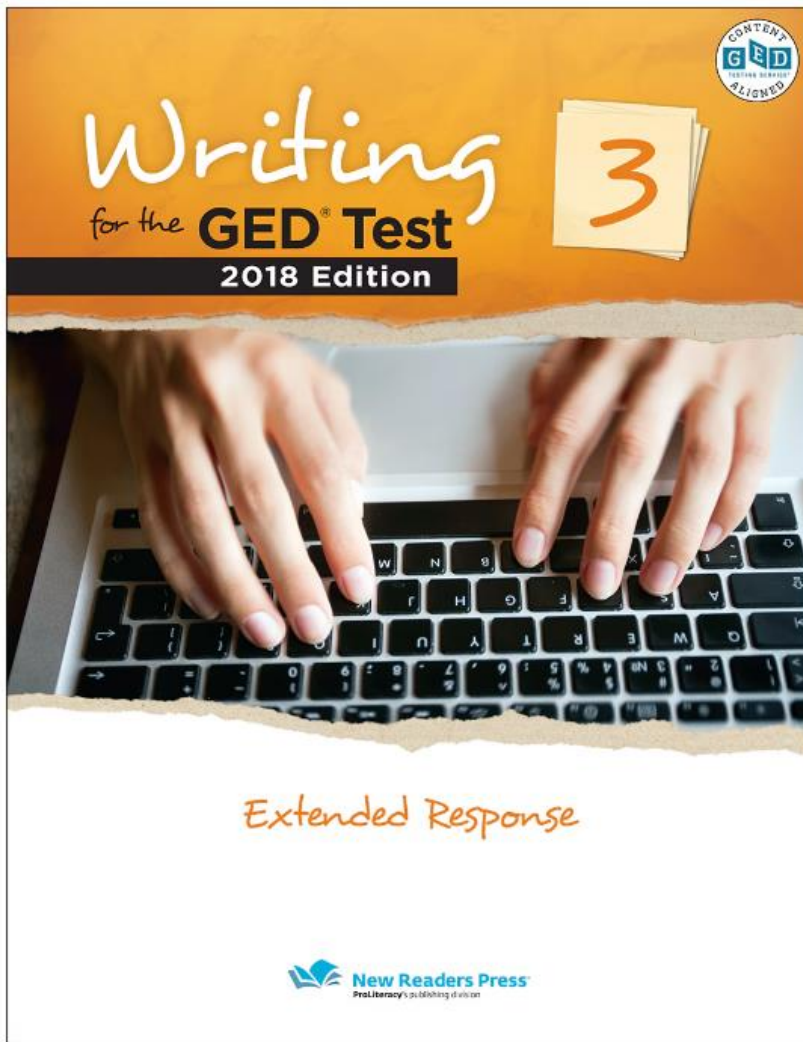


Classroom Resources

GED® RLA Practice Prompts Links

- [Writing for the GED® Test Book 4](#)
- [Tweens/Cell Phone; Game-Based Education, Parent Education; Internet Filtering at Work; Hosting Olympics](#)
- [Diamond Mining; Plastic Bags; Traffic Lights; Pro Athletes](#)
- [Taxation and Revenue](#)
- [Daylight Savings Time](#)

Writing for the GED® Test Books 3 and 4



Extended Response Videos



Overview of the GED Extended Response—Video 1 of How to Pass the GED Extended Response

It's Your Turn!



Thank You!

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Special Edition Tuesdays for Teachers

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

**Artificial Intelligence Literacy: Preparing
Students for Success in a Digital Age**

Next Tuesdays for Teachers:

December 10, 2024

