

INTRODUCING ACES:

A = **Answer** the teacher's question in the form of a sentence.

C = **Cite** an example to support your answer.

E = **Explain** on your example.

S = **Summarize**.

ACES: A simple, scaffolded writing strategy

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Why simple?

“Simple plans” work best—those with a direct focus on straightforward actions and opportunities (Collins, 2001).

Students want to write well.



But all too often...

When given a writing task, students stare at a blank sheet of paper and don't know what to write.



Essential Question

How can the ACES writing strategy help you write better answers in all content areas?

Think back to when you first learned to bake a cake. You followed the recipe on the back of the box and after a few tries you had it. For many of us, we can get by in life by using cake mixes and following the recipe on the back of the box.



And then there will be those of us who enjoy cake making so much that we will extend our skills. We will become professional cake bakers and master flour sifting and cake decorating. But not all of us have to be able to bake at this level to be successful. Writing is very similar to baking a cake. We can get the job done successfully by following a recipe. If we want to add style and give our piece voice, we can step out of the box.



To see the strategy modeled, click on the tab: **TOOLS FOR TEACHING ACES.**

To try the strategy yourself, use the worksheets found when you click on the tab: **WORKSHEETS.**

To see student samples, **keep scrolling.**

Student Samples

Grade 7

A

Answer the teacher's question in the form of a sentence:

The author, Truman Capote uses imagery or sensory images in "A Christmas Memory" to enrich the reader's experience of the story.

B

Write an example from the text:

1C For example, on page (218) Truman writes, "Consider the kitchen of a spreading old house in a country town."

C

Explain/elaborate/expand upon your example:

1E By writing this Truman uses sensory imaging, so you can actually picture the scene.

2C Also, on page (218), Truman writes, "selling buckets of hand picked blackberries."

2E This helps you picture the black berries and enrich the reader's experience in the story.

D

Summarizing statement:

In conclusion, now you see how Truman Capote enriches the reader's experience of the story by using sensory imagery.

TEACHER'S QUESTION:

Is 12 a prime number?

12 is not a prime number. 12 is divisible by 6. 12 is not a prime number because it is divisible by numbers other than itself like 2 and 6 and 3 and 4. In conclusion, 12 is not a prime number.

TEACHER'S QUESTION:

Describe your alter-ego.

My alter ego is cheer girl. First, cheer girl has special pom-poms. Her pom-poms are her weapons. She can throw them at the villains and they suction them to the ground. After the villains are locked up in jail, cheer girl's pom-poms magically find their way back to cheer girl using their navigation system. Second, cheer girl has a magical uniform to match her pom-poms. Her uniform makes her more flexible. She can stretch really far to catch villains. She can stretch around buildings and over bridges. Cheer girl is my alter ego and she lives to capture villains with her pom-poms.

Grade 8

TEACHER'S QUESTION:

How do a direct democratic voting system and a representative democratic voting system differ from each other? Include at least two details from the passage to support your answer.

The democratic voting system and the representative voting system are very different from each other. First, the democratic voting system is the candidate who gets the most votes is the person who wins. For example, if there were to candidates for a small town, everyone over 18 would vote for them. Then all the votes would be counted, whoever gets more votes wins. Second, the representative democracy system is different because they don't just vote. For example each state is assigned a number of official voters (electors) and together they make up "Electoral College." The members of the system actually count up the votes that people make and decide on what they think is best. Their decision is based on which candidate most of the people in that state prefer. In conclusion, those are the reasons why democratic voting and representative democracy are different from each other.