**TIPS FOR ANSWERING FRQ’s  
  
10 MINUTE PRE-READING TIME**

• Read all the questions.  
• Read all the questions AGAIN.  
• As you read the questions, underline POWER WORDS (describe, predict, etc.)

so you know what question is asking you to do.

• Decide the order in which you’ll answer them and NUMBER THEM.

~ Answer the questions you know the most about first.

• Make a list/outline  
 ~ Quickly jot down ideas you will write about for each part

**PACING: -** Do not spend too much time on one part OR any one question.

• Questions 1 and 2 (LONG FRQ’s worth 10 points each).   
 ~ Spend no more than 20 minutes answering each of these.

• Questions 3, 4, and 5 (SHORT FRQ’ worth 4 points each)  
 ~ Spend no more than 6 minutes answering each of these.

• Questions 6, 7, and 8 (SHORT FRQ’s worth 3 points each)  
 ~ Spend no more than 6 minutes answering each of these.

**MECHANICS**:

• Use a blue or black ink pen, preferably ballpoint.

• WRITE LEGIBLY- They can’t give you points if they can’t read it.

• Confine your answers to the lined spaces provided.  
 ~ Readers will NOT SCORE anything written outside of the lines provided.

• Diagrams/pictures can add to/help explain your answer response   
 BUT AREN’T WORTH POINTS by themselves without a written description

• Responses must be in essay form in complete sentences/paragraphs.  
 ~ NO OUTLINES, LISTS, or BULLET POINTS

• If the question has multiple parts (a, b, c), be sure you address each part.   
 ~ Labeling the parts can help organize your thoughts and make it   
 easier for readers for find your answers.

• If you make a mistake/change your mind, simply cross it out rather than   
 scribbling it out completely.

**CONTENT**: How to answer the questions effectively  
• Recheck the POWER WORDS as you write to make sure you are answering   
 what you were asked to do   
• FORGET WHAT YOUR ENGLISH TEACHERS SAID-  
 ~ Get to the point! “Just the facts”  
 ~ No introductory paragraph, don’t include part of the question in the opening,   
 no summary paragraph; don’t worry about spelling or grammar.   
• SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW-   
 ~ EXPLAIN and GIVE EXAMPLES  
 ~ Pretend you are explaining to HOMER SIMPSON  
 ~ If you can’t think of the vocab word DESCRIBE it.  
 ~ Writing lots of random stuff in the hope of getting lucky wastes valuable time  
 and you won’t get credit for it.   
• Don't overlook the obvious.  
 ~ Simple facts or a definition can be worth points   
• If you say something right then contradict this later, you will lose the point.  
• Even if you think you know nothing about the question – you do!   
 ~ Always write something.   
 ~ Come back to the question and give it some thought - you may get a point or two.

• If the question asks for TWO examples, give ONLY TWO and no more  
 ~ The reader will only consider the FIRST TWO you mention.   
• As you write your response new ideas may come to you.   
 Stop and add these to your outline and then go back to your writing.

**AFTER YOU HAVE WRITTEN YOUR RESPONSE:**• Go back and reread your answer  
 ~ Did you do what the POWER WORDS asked you to do (describe, contrast, analyze)?  
 ~ Did you answer all the parts (a,b,c) ?

~ Did you include all the ideas in your outline?

Modified with additions from handouts by: Lee Ferguson and Trevor Gallant