A©PEE: PARAGRAPH STRUCTURE

How to write *critically* using textual evidence

*(These are parts of a paragraph, meaning each part might be more than one sentence!)*

**A**: “Answer” – Answer the question using the question.  This is your TOPIC SENTENCE/CLAIM.  You may have to

generate your own research/writing question to create this claim.

**C**: “Context” – This is a lead-in to the textual evidence you are about to use in support of your claim.

**P**: “Proof” – instead of proof, let’s think of this as “EVIDENCE.”  What evidence from the text are you using to support

your claim?  Limit your “quotes” to 6-words.

**E**: “Explain” – Explanation of your evidence.  *Why is this important to your overall claim?* This should be your most

thorough section, possibly requiring multiple sentences.

**E**: “Echo” – restate or "Echo" your claim through the lens of your evidence.  In other words, *how does your evidence*

*(and explanation of it) echo your thesis/claim?*

**VOCABULARY FOR CONVERSING WITH THE SOURCES**

Conduct "conversations" with the sources by summarizing what "they say" and responding as if you were sitting across a table from the author discussing the issue.

1. Begin with summary of the source's position. Choose an appropriate verb to characterize the force of the author's argument.

claims

attacks

asserts

observes

lambasts

rationalizes

ridicules

validates

heightens

laments

confronts

justifies

advocates

specifies

defends

down plays

attempts to persuade

ponders

proposes

repudiates

believes

expresses

demonstrates

presumes

alleges

argues

comments

promotes

emphasizes

cites

relies on

appeals to

2. Add your personal response to the source. Choose an appropriate verb to characterize the force of your argument.

acknowledge

question

support

deny

contend

affirm

believe

suggest

counter

admit

agree

disagree

challenge

dispute

contest

concede

sympathize

maintain

adopt

concur

PURPOSE VERBS:

accentuates

admonishes

advises

advocates

applauds

argues

assumes

attacks

berates

celebrates

challenges

characterizes

chronicles

claims

concedes

condemns

condones

confirms

confronts

contends

contests

contrasts

corroborates

counsels

denies

denounces

displays

disputes

downplays

dramatizes

emphasizes

endorses

envisions

evokes

exhorts

extols

highlights

hints

illustrates

illuminates

insists

justifies

lambasts

laments

lampoons

lists

minimizes

muses

observes

opposes

outlines

ponders

postulates

praises

proposes

recommends

questions

reflects

refutes

regrets

rejects

ridicules

satirizes

specifies

speculates

suggests

supports

sympathizes

understands

upholds

urges

warns

validates

Sentence Starters

Answer

Context

Proof

Explain

Echo