**Writing Your Short Answer Responses**

This year you will be required to write a short answer response for every chapter (with the exception of Chapter 15). You will be provided with your questions along with your vocabulary for each chapter. There will be several questions - you will need to answer only one. You will need to turn in your response by the day of the Chapter Test.

Your responses need to be written carefully and accurately. I prefer that you type out your response, however, you may also hand-write your response if that is your only option. The following are simple rules that you must remember when putting together your response.

1. Always make sure that you have written in ***COMPLETE SENTENCES***. This means that you need a subject, a verb and a predicate.
2. You have to ***make sense***! This means that whatever you are writing about has to be easily understood. Introduce your answer – make sure you explain yourself completely – then wrap it up with a conclusion.
3. The best way to make sure that your answer makes sense is to pretend that the person reading your response has no idea about the subject. Don’t imagine that I am reading your paper – pretend that the person reading it has never even heard the question!
4. Have someone else read your response before you turn it in. As I’m writing this, I plan on having someone else (probably my wife) look it over so that it makes sense. If this is impossible, read your response out loud to yourself – loud enough so that you are speaking clearly. If you are tripping over the words or are confused, you probably need to work some more on editing your response.
5. Don’t wait until the last minute to write your responses. I know some of you will probably not heed my warning. It’s very difficult to write and get it correct the first time. You can even email me about your response or come see me in person before or after school for some advice. But ***DON’T WAIT*** – this will be a much easier thing to do if you don’t have to rush.

This part of your work will be worth 10 points – the same point value as your vocabulary/identification. Like your vocab/identification, you have plenty of time to work on this and with your text and your notes, you have all of the resources you need. Try to decide early on which question you will answer and pay close attention in class when your particular subject is being discussed. This is a good time to ask questions in class to make sure you can answer your question completely.

Below is the rubric I will be using to grade your responses:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **9-10 points** | **7-8 points** | **5-6 points** | **3-4 points** | **1-2 points** |
| ***Excellent:***  Uses transitions, sentence variety & supports answer with evidence & details; grammar is flawless – idea is organized & flows naturally | ***Good:*** attempt demonstrates an understanding of the question & uses evidence to support the statement – spelling & grammar mistakes are limited | ***Basic:*** attempt shows some organization & is partially complete – spelling & grammar mistakes are present but not blatant | ***Poor:*** attempt made to answer question but lacks organization, spelling & grammar skills – doesn’t answer question completely | ***Insufficient:*** hardly an attempt to answer the question/s |

You may recognize this rubric – we used it last year for some of our writing assignments. I’ve slightly adjusted the point values to reflect the 10 point question you will be answering.

Here is an idea of what this will look like when you get your vocabulary/identification sheet. I’m going to use questions that are not from your reading and class discussion. Still you should be able to answer any one of these questions…

***Summer Break Short Answer Questions (10 Points)***

**You must answer *ONE* of the following questions on a separate sheet of paper by the day of the Chapter Test. *(Ok – there is no chapter test, this is just an example).*  You must answer in *complete sentences* and answer as completely as possible. You are encouraged to type your answer but handwritten responses will be sufficient.**

**Be sure to *write the question* that you are answering at the top of the page!**

* Provide examples of how you spent your summer break from school. Be sure to describe why you liked or did not like them.
* Did you travel anywhere over summer break? Where did you go and what did you do while you were there? Explain how your travels were important to you or someone else.
* Our social studies class did not meet for over two and one half months. Pick an event in the news – describe what happened and how this event is significant to people (either locally, nationally or internationally).

**If you want assistance, you may see me before or after school or email me at mrdan4th@hotmail.com for help.**

*Check out the next page to see how I answer one of these – just like I would turn in for a grade!*

Mark Danforth

August 12, 2013

Summer Break Short Answer Response

**Did you travel anywhere over summer break? Where did you go and what did you do while you were there? Explain how your travels were important to you or someone else.**

This summer my wife and I traveled to Charleston, South Carolina. We stayed at the Mills House Hotel on Meeting Street for four nights and we also drove to Myrtle Beach, SC. for one night. We loved Charleston!

While we were there we did many things. We took two walking tours of the city. One tour was a Civil War tour, but it also included some of the early history of Charleston - a city that has been around since 1670. The second tour was a Pirate tour. The famous pirate, Blackbeard terrorized the city in 1718. We even went to a house that is said to be haunted by the ghost of female pirate Ann Bonny.

We walked all around in Charleston. We visited a location where slaves were auctioned back before the Civil War. There is a huge outdoor market on Market Street where you can buy all kinds of things. We also enjoyed southern cooking at the restaurants. Outside of town we visited a plantation house built in 1739.

Myrtle Beach was ok but wasn't as fun as Charleston. We had a hotel room with a balcony facing the ocean but there were so many big hotels and people in Myrtle Beach that our experience couldn't compare to the time we spent in Charleston.

My wife and I had a great time - it was our first real vacation in three years. I enjoyed the history, and she enjoyed the atmosphere. I hope that we can go back someday soon.

*The answer above is about 250 words. I attempted to answer the question as completely as possible. I used complete sentences. My answer has an introduction and a conclusion. I had someone else (my wife) read over my response for mistakes. This is how I am hoping you will write your responses this year for your short answer questions in Social Studies class.*