

Work-Over Example

Part I – Abstract Paragraph

Abstract = a dense summary (one line per subject) of your research. This will not be great writing. It will be choppy and a combination of **Level 1**- Recall information and **Level 2** – Context Information.

Line 1 – Summary Statement about your research (Level 2 – Context Statement)

Line 2 – Fact about **Detail #1**

Line 3 – Cause and effect statement about **Detail #1**

Line 4 – Fact about **Detail #2**

Line 5 – Cause and Effect statement about **Detail #2**

Continue the pattern until you have addressed all your topics

Example:

The Middle Ages was a time when the church and state battled for control over the people. Charlemagne was a king who wanted to rule the world like the Roman Empire. To gain control, he promised to share control with the church if the Pope would crown him king. The Holy Roman Empire came about because the church and state ruled together. To make this happen, they divided responsibility according to the feudal system . . .

Part II: Deductive Response Questions

Deductive Response Questions come as a result of your reading. They show me your thought process, and they give you a tool to move from Level 2 Questions (Context) to Level 3 (Interpretation). You need to have 5 questions that reflect the Rhetorical Modes:

Cause and Effect

Definition

Compare-Contrast

Classification

Example

Description

Narration

(Metaphor – Analogy)

The questions should be open-ended – meaning they need to be answered with more than just a yes/no; they should ask *How? Why? If? What?* Questions . They should be a combination of questions that deal with the past (“*How did church and state come together?*”) and deal with the present (“*Can church and state survive together?*”)

Sample Questions:

1. *How did church and state come together?*
2. *What is the benefit of the Feudal System?*
3. *How does the literature of the Middle Ages reflect the Feudal System?*
4. *Why are people fascinated with kings and queens?*
5. *Who is the most important person in the feudal system?*

Part III: Deductive Response Paragraph

Deductive Response paragraphs are the best paragraphs a student can write. They do everything a teacher wants: they give facts, they give context, and they give interpretation. For that reason, they are also the most difficult to write – and most students avoid them like the plague.

They come about in response to your critical questions above. You choose one question from your Deductive Response Questions, and you answer it in the following way:

Question: How did church and state come together?

- Line 1 (Topic Sentence): Answer to the question
- Line 2: Example from Research
- Line 3: Evidence from Research (a quotation, citation)
- Line 4: Interpretation – theme: moving from past to present
- Line 5: Example #2 from Research
- Line 6: Evidence from Research
- Line 7: Interpretation – theme: moving from past to present
- Line 8: Example #3 from Research
- Line 9: Evidence from Research
- Line 10: Interpretation – theme: moving from past to present
- Line 11: Universal lesson/evaluation/assessment

The church and state came together because Charlemagne wanted to be king. He knew the church had the hearts and minds of the people. According to WSU History Glossary, Charlemagne “made a compromise between his will and the power of the church to achieve his ends.” Like anyone, Charlemagne saw his limitations and created an opportunity to gain more power by sharing it with someone else. He also divided up power. Seeing that the church “divided its powers between the different regions” (WSU Glossary), Charlemagne saw how he could make their system work to his benefit. Like any good team, he saw that each person could serve a purpose; he divided power to keep his kingdom strong. Lastly, the church wanted power, too. During the Middle Ages, the people “looked to the church to supply their basic needs” (WSU Glossary), and they did not want the people to be subject to anyone but the Pope. People cannot serve two masters; they will love one and hate the other; so the Catholic Church needed a way to remain powerful. This goes to show how life can be; everyone wants power, and there are many ways to get it. In the case of the Middle Ages, power meant making choices and using people to gain what the kings and church wanted for themselves.