

Claim, Evidence, Reasoning (CER) Writing Strategy: A Classroom Summary

What is CER?

The Claim, Evidence, Reasoning (CER) strategy is a structured approach to writing that helps students clearly explain their thinking. It is widely used in science, social studies, and other subjects to develop critical thinking and argumentation skills.

Components of CER:

- **Claim:** A statement or answer to a question. It is the main point the student wants to make.
- **Evidence:** Facts, data, or observations that support the claim. Evidence should be specific and relevant.
- **Reasoning:** The explanation of how and why the evidence supports the claim. This connects the dots for the reader.

Why Use CER?

CER scaffolds complex writing by breaking it into three manageable parts. It encourages students to base their ideas on evidence rather than opinions, promoting deeper understanding and stronger communication. CER helps students practice critical thinking by justifying their claims logically.

How is CER Used in the Classroom?

1. **Introduce the Framework:** Teachers explain each part of CER with examples.
2. **Model Writing:** Demonstrate how to write a CER paragraph using a familiar topic or experiment.
3. **Guided Practice:** Students work with teacher support to craft their own claims, find evidence, and write reasoning.
4. **Independent Use:** Students apply CER in writing assignments, lab reports, debates, or essays across subjects.
5. **Feedback and Revision:** Teachers provide feedback focused on the clarity of the claim, relevance of evidence, and strength of reasoning.

Benefits for Students:

- Builds confidence in writing structured explanations
- Develops skills in using evidence to support ideas
- Enhances critical thinking and analytical skills
- Improves academic writing across disciplines