



# STAR

## Best Practices and Adaptations



# Understanding the STAR Strategy

STAR is a **mnemonic** for **organizing and drafting short, evidence-based written responses to text-based questions.**

- **S**et up
- **T**ext Evidence
- **A**nalyze
- **R**estate



# Understanding the STAR Strategy

This strategy...

- Supports: **Planning and Drafting**
- Applies To: **Informational Writing** and **Evidence-Based Responses**
- Grade Levels: **Grades 4-8**



# Suggestions for Implementation

- **Explicitly teach each step** of STAR using **think-alouds** and real examples
- **Use visual aids** like **anchor charts**, graphic organizers, and color-coded checklists
- **Use direct quotes and paraphrasing practice** to build text evidence skills



# Suggestions for Implementation

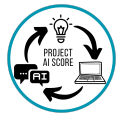
- **Give feedback on each component** (S, T, A, R) so students know what to improve
- **Incorporate peer discussion** before writing to help students clarify thoughts
- **Celebrate growth** with incentives like "STAR badges" to boost confidence



# Common Pitfalls to Avoid

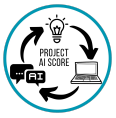
- **Don't skip the modeling phase.** Students need clear examples to internalize the strategy, especially those with learning differences.
- **Don't assume students can analyze without support.** Provide guided questioning and sentence stems.
- **Don't accept vague, unsupported answers.** Reinforce the value of evidence-based writing.





# Common Pitfalls to Avoid (Part 2)

- **Don't introduce STAR as one big chunk.** Break it into digestible lessons, focusing on one step at a time.
- **Don't make STAR feel like a task to get out of the way.** Connect each step to a specific writing goal.
- **Don't use STAR only in isolated writing tasks.** Embed it across subjects to promote transfer.



# Troubleshooting

<b>Issue/Challenge</b>	<b>What to Do</b>
Students skip analysis	Model deeper thinking with examples
Responses are too short	Encourage elaboration with sentence starters
Students struggle to find evidence	Pre-select quotes or highlight key parts of the text





# Adapting STAR for ALL learners

- **Using Visuals or Icons:** Use visuals like a magnifying glass for **Analyze** or a speech bubble for **Set Up** to help students remember each step.
- **Allow Oral STAR Responses:** Before writing, have students verbally "read their STAR" to clarify their thoughts and reduce writing pressure.
- **Provide Color-Coded Sentence Frames:** Offer sentence starters for each step (e.g., "I believe..." for **Set Up**) on a bookmark or small writing mat to reduce cognitive load



# Adapting STAR for ALL learners

- **Peer Review Checklists:** Use a checklist that focuses on each STAR component to provide structured, targeted feedback.
- **Color-Coded Mentor Sentences:** Create model paragraphs where each part of the STAR strategy is highlighted in a different color. This helps students visually distinguish each component and see how a complete response is built.



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