

## To give a complete answer, you have to learn the **R.O.P.E.S.**

Do your teachers ever tell you your answers are too short, that you need to expand or explain that you don't give enough detail? Do you ever know the answer to all the questions on a test but when you get your test back, your mark is lower than you expected? Do you ever wonder how to give a short answer when you could write an essay on the subject?

Here is a method that just may help you get the marks you deserve. It's called R.O.P.E.S. and it will help you answer questions properly and in turn will help you write paragraphs and eventually essays!

First, let's learn what R.O.P.E.S. stands for. Here is a sample question that we will use as an example.

*~ What is your favourite season and why do you like it?*

**R- Restate** the question.

When you give a complete answer you always need to restate the question first. If you're answering in complete sentences you cannot just answer "autumn."

*My favourite season is autumn,*

**O – State the opinion** or fact.

If you're answering from personal experience or what you think, you need to give an opinion. If you're answering a technical question about something learned in class, you need to state a fact. Here, because it's personal, we will use an opinion.

*because it makes me feel refreshed.*

**P –Use proof** or an example.

This is where most people stop. After all, it's your opinion, right? Well, if it's your opinion, you should be able to explain why you feel that way. If not, you leave the reader to decide whether your opinion makes sense. If it is a fact, you need to back it up with proof from your notes or the textbook. So, we're answering the question, "Why does autumn make you feel refreshed?"

*We get a fresh start to the new school year in a new grade, meet new friends and get new school supplies. Everything is clean and new.*

**E –Give another example.**

OK, now your teacher knows why you feel refreshed. I'm sure there are more reasons why autumn is your favourite, but here is a good place to expand your answer and say why it is better than the other seasons.

*I like that the weather gets cooler in autumn after a hot summer. It's easier to do sports outside when it's not too hot and not too cold. In the spring, the ground is still wet and I usually have too much school work to do to enjoy being outside.*

**S –Summarize your answer**

Now you've mentioned why you like autumn and how it compares to the other seasons. Again, if you were writing an essay you could give more opinions and more examples for each. If it is a short answer, you need a one-sentence summary of your answer.

*There are things I like about each season, but I love autumn the most because of the fresh start it gives me.*

Now let's look at it all together...

*What is your favourite season and why do you like it?*

*My favourite season is autumn, because it makes me feel refreshed. We get a fresh start to the new school year in a new grade, meet new friends and get new school supplies. Everything is clean and new. I like that the weather gets cooler in autumn after a hot summer. It's easier to do sports outside when it's not too hot and not too cold. In the spring, the ground is still wet and I usually have too much school work to do to enjoy being outside. There are things I like about each season, but I love autumn the most because of the fresh start it gives me.*

Let's look at another example, but this time let's use a factual response.

*Why did the Irish immigrate to British North America (Canada) during the Great Migration?*

*(R)The Irish immigrated to British North America (F) because they could no longer live in Ireland. (P) They were unable to grow potatoes, their main staple food, due to blight in the crops, leaving the Irish to starve. (E) They moved to British North America because it was made up of British colonies and there were lots of English speaking people there. They would be able to find other Irish immigrants when they landed. (S) The Irish were forced out of their country by famine and chose British North America because of the people who were already there.*

Be careful not to get off topic! If a longer answer is required you can list several reasons why they came, but don't talk about how long it took to get here or what happened when they got here. If this is a test, there will be

another question where you can explain the obstacles faced by the Irish. If you write that now, even though what you say may be true, you won't get the marks for the answer.

Try your own R.O.P.E.S. answer. Take some of the ideas below, rearrange them, and put them in complete sentences so that the answer follows the R.O.P.E.S. model.

Question: Why is bullying wrong?

- it's stupid
- I hate bullies
- they do it because they have low self-esteem themselves
- they make you feel bad about yourself
- when you're scared, you can't learn in class
- everyone deserves to feel safe at school
- it's not right to make fun of people
- you will get in trouble if you do
- it's against the law
- you should accept people's differences
- most of the stuff they say isn't true

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Now try some of these questions:

- ~ *What do you like better- poems, short stories, or novels?*
- ~ *Should professional hockey players be allowed to go on strike?*
- ~ *What are the positive aspects of having a school uniform?*