



WORDS TO WATCH FOR IN THE WRITTEN RESPONSES

LIST: Write an itemized series of concise statements (concepts, events, laws) without explanation

IDENTIFY: Write an itemized series of concise statements (concepts, events, laws)

DESCRIBE: Give a detailed account. Make a picture with words. Include characteristics, qualities and parts.

DISCUSS: Give an account using about three reasons. Then explain your opinion or reasons using examples.

ANALYZE: Break into its component parts and discuss, examine, or interpret each part.

EXPLAIN: Make an idea/concept/process/relationship clear. Show the logical relationship between components of the question. Provide reasons for an event or series of events. Often requires a thesis statement. Provide supporting evidence/data (expert testimony, examples, statistics).

COMPARE: Show the similarities (and sometimes the differences) between two or more things. May involve a variety of factors among which maybe objectives, size, structure, selection process, time, recruitment methods, power, authority, legitimacy.

CONTRAST: Show the difference between two or more things. See compare for incomplete list of factors involved.

SUPPORT/REFUTE: Provide evidence which proves (supports) or disproves (refutes) a statement or quotation. Requires a thesis and supporting evidence.

EVALUATE: Make a judgment on a problem, condition, quotation. Provide data on both sides. Pick one side and justify your position with data, expert testimony, examples.