

# Answering an Explaining Question

**Step 1:** Find evidence and/or examples in the text, including one or two brief quotes.

**Step 2:** Write a topic sentence that answers the question and uses question parts.

**Step 3:** Spend a few minutes thinking about how your evidence, examples, and quotes can be concisely stated to support your answer.

**Step 4:** Support the topic sentence by writing evidence and examples from the text in your own words. Weave quote(s) into these supporting sentences. Cite the text at least once by providing a page and/or paragraph number.

**Step 5:** Read your answer to make sure it's clear and well written.

# Answering an Inferring Question

**Step 1:** Find evidence and/or examples in the text, including one or two brief quotes.

**Step 2:** Ask yourself, “What does all of this mean?” and answer the question using parts from the question.

**Step 3:** Spend a few minutes thinking about how your evidence, examples, and quotes can be concisely stated to support your answer.

**Step 4:** Support the topic sentence by writing evidence and examples from the text in your own words. Weave quote(s) into these supporting sentences. Cite the text at least once by providing a page and/or paragraph number.

**Step 5:** Read your answer to make sure it’s clear and well written.

## Answering Questions Successfully

First and foremost, you need to answer the question you've been given. Always ask yourself,  
**“Did I clearly answer the question?”**  
ADD QUOTING TO EACH EXAMPLE!

**\*Explain** by finding ALL important details.

Question: Explain how Brian landed the plane.

Non-answer: Brian wanted to land in a lake because the trees would kill him.

Poor explanation: Brian landed the plane in an L-shaped lake.

Good explanation: Brian crash-landed the plane in an L-shaped lake. On page 27 he sees the lake. Next he pulls back on the throttle to lose speed, points the nose of the plane down, crashes into the tops of some trees, and plunges into the lake.

**\*Infer** by gathering all of the evidence then asking yourself what all of this means. Write what it means first then add the evidence.

Question: What was “The Secret”?

Non-answer: “The Secret” caused Brian’s parents to get a divorce.

Poor answer: “The Secret” was that Brian’s mom was in a station wagon with a man.

Good inference: “The Secret” was that Brian’s mom had been cheating on Brian’s dad. In Chapter 4, Brian flashes back to the time when he saw his mom sitting in a station wagon, and “there was a man in the car” with her.

**\*Cite** by including the page number.

Poor citing: I know all of this because it says so on page 34.

Good citing: On page 34, Brian saw his mom sitting in a car with a strange man.

**\*Quote** by finding a phrase or sentence from the book that provides an excellent example or piece of evidence and weaving it into your answer.

Poor quoting: Brian’s mom was in a car with a man. On page 34 it says, “There was a man in the car.”

Good quoting: “There was a man in the car” with Brian’s mom on page 34.

**\*Elaborate** by including plenty of details. This lets the person who’s reading your answer know that you read carefully, understood what was happening, and can explain it well.

Poor elaboration: Brian skimmed the trees and crashed into the lake.

Good elaboration: Brian crash-landed the plane in an L-shaped lake. On page 27 he sees the lake. Next he pulls back on the throttle to lose speed, points the nose of the plane down, crashes into the tops of some trees, and plunges into the lake.