

ACE

Answer/Analyze – Cite Evidence – Expand

Students need to be taught what ACE is and why it is important to their learning. A first step is to provide them with the ACE formula for constructing responses. The use of the ACE strategy is a specific fix for a specific problem – that of students being unable to demonstrate higher-order, critical thinking in a short-answer, written response.

One way to use ACE to help students demonstrates proficiency in social studies.

Answer the question.

Cite evidence from the text.

Expand your answer.

Another way to use ACE to help students demonstrate proficiency in social studies.

Answer the question.

Restate the question.

Answer the question.

Cite evidence from the text or story.

Expand your answer.

Creating a rubric with ACE....

Assigning points allows the teacher, as well as students, to assess and score reading and social studies responses quickly and simply.

Answer the question = 1 point

Cite evidence from the text or story = 1 point

Expand your answer = 1 point

Teach students how to use a strategy by intentionally:

Modeling

Demonstrating

Dedicating time for individual, partner, and team practice

Providing learning supports – strategy banks, anchor papers, prompts

ACE as a High Probability Strategy

ACE is a high-yield instructional strategy that can be used to positively impact class learning goals in reading and writing. It can also be used as a strategy for formative assessment. In other words, students can use ACE to 'learn what they need to learn' and 'show what they know'.

Many schools find that school-wide implementation of ACE is a strategy that has the potential to positively impact school improvement goals in all content and program areas. Consider the following:

- *Required regular and frequent use of the strategy.*
- *Department wide short-answer, extended written response assessments in ACE format once a month.*
- *Course level teams compile and analyze their ACE data.*
- *Chart, analyze, post and share department wide ACE data.*
- *Course level teams use PDSA cycles to improve student results of using ACE strategy.*
- *ACE results are used as a prediction of performance on district or state assessments.*

Ensuring fidelity of implementation:

The ultimate aim of a fidelity system is to ensure that both the department and classroom use of ACE are implemented and delivered as intended.

When implementing a strategy like ACE, it is critical to know whether it is being implemented as designed, so that if its use is initially unsuccessful, the school can make appropriate adjustments to remedy the deficiency rather than abandoning the entire reform. The following list includes indicators of ACE implementation fidelity:

- *Reading and writing rubrics are posted in classrooms.*
- *Students know and use the rubrics.*
- *Students practice brief, constructed written response items at least three times per week.*
- *The teacher gives and scores an ACE quiz weekly.*
- *Class ACE data is posted in the room.*
- *Student data notebooks include:*
 - *ACE rubrics*
 - *Graphs and charts of personal ACE data*
 - *ACE quizzes*
 - *Quarterly personal improvement plans*
- *Teachers collaborate to share results and identify ACE best practices*