

PARCC QUESTION FORMAT II: PCR – Prose Constructed Response, Informational ESSAY

The average length expected of a student's essay seems to be between 250 and 400 words

This format requires the student to **create** original text (essay) based upon provided content

Question: The prompt may require the student to write an article for a school newspaper based upon the content provided in the accompanying passage.

In the article be sure to include **descriptive details**.

Delineate key points in the article and provide supporting evidence from the provided content.

Question: The prompt may also require the student to write an argument to support various **claims** contained in the provided content. In this case, the student will have to **evaluate** (i.e. good/bad, right/wrong) the claims made in the content. As always, the student must quote/cite supporting evidence (i.e. text) from the content. Student must be able to distinguish **fact** from opinion or generalizations,

Comments: This is a requirement to construct a **PCR = Prose Constructed Response**. In this variation of Format II, the student is asked to **compare** and **synthesize** information conveyed in the provided content and to offer his or her **conclusions** about it.

Before the student is given this task, it will be preceded by one or more EBSR (Evidence Based Selected Response) or TECR (Technology Enhanced Constructed Response) based upon the same content to help the student fully understand the content before writing.

The guidelines for writing within an essay-type form are as follows:

Introduction that presents the student's overview of the content.

Also includes the student's **central idea** or purpose in their essay

Student provides descriptive, supporting **details** drawn from the provided content

The student uses **analysis** (breaks the content down into its essential elements) and offers thoughtful reflection about the content.

If the student draws any **inferences** from the content, *must* quote supporting **evidence** from the provided text. Accuracy of evidence is determined by what is **explicit** and what is merely **inferred**.

Employs **sensory** and/or **figurative** language in their writing.

May base the essay's **structure** on chronology, comparisons, contrasts, cause and effect, problem and solution.

Includes a **summary** of the content and the **conclusions** the student has drawn from his or her **analysis** and reflections.