



# ELA REFERENCE SHEET

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## WRITING RESPONSES — OPINION TRANSITIONS

Sentence starters for **stating your opinion**

- In my opinion
- I think
- I feel
- I believe
- I prefer
- My favorite

Transitions when **providing reasons**

- First
- To start
- To begin with
- Second
- Next
- Another reason
- Finally
- Lastly
- Most importantly
- One last reason

Transitions when **providing examples/details**

- For example
- For instance
- In particular
- Additionally
- In fact
- Specifically

Transitions when **coming to a conclusion**

- In conclusion
- All in all
- As you can see
- To sum it up
- To summarize
- Finally

## SHOW ME THE... EVIDENCE (USE THE FOLLOWING TO PROVIDE "EVIDENCE" FOR YOUR READING RESPONSES)

- Because...
- For instance...
- For example...
- The author stated...
- According to the text...
- On page \_\_, it said...
- From the reading, I know that...
- Based on what I read...

## STORY MAPS: TO PLAN A STORY, THE WRITER MUST PUT ELEMENTS TOGETHER:

- **Main Characters:** the people in the story who will experience the big problems and solutions.
- **Setting:** where and when the story takes place
- **Problem:** the main issue affecting the main characters that needs to be solved.
- **Goal:** what the characters decide they need to do to solve the problem.
- **Solution:** the way the problems actually get resolved.
- **Plot:** a series of events that form the story in a novel, movie, etc.
- **Climax:** the most exciting and important part of a story, play, or movie that occurs usually at or near the end.

Once the outline is completed, the writer then follows the connections among characters and elements. Ultimately, most of the elements in the outline will work together with the characters.

## TYPES OF SENTENCES

TYPE OF SENTENCE	EXAMPLE
<b>Declarative:</b> makes a statement	Kim ate her entire meal.
<b>Interrogative:</b> asks a question	Who won the spelling bee?
<b>Imperative:</b> commands or request action	Open the door and go inside.
<b>Exclamatory:</b> expresses strong feelings	What a beautiful evening it is!

## FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE: MAKE YOUR WRITING MORE EXACT AND INTERESTING WITH THESE FIGURES OF SPEECH.

TERM	EXAMPLE
<b>Hyperbole:</b> a deliberate exaggeration	I'm so hungry I could eat a horse.
<b>Metaphor:</b> a comparison of two different things that does not use like or as.	A green plant is a machine that runs on solar energy.
<b>Simile:</b> a comparison of two different things that uses like or as.	The wrestler was as strong as a bull.
<b>Personification:</b> attributing human qualities to an animal, object, or idea	Fear grabbed the victim in its icy clutches.

## PARTS OF SPEECH: EIGHT WAYS IN WHICH WORDS ARE USED IN A SENTENCE

PART OF SPEECH	EXAMPLES
<b>Noun:</b> a person, place, thing or idea	women, library, pizza, courage
<b>Pronoun:</b> replaces a noun	I, you, he, him, them
<b>Verb:</b> expresses action or a state of being	eat, leap, forgive, concentrate, yell
<b>Adjective:</b> describes a verb, adjective or another adverb	magnificent, seven, lucky, that
<b>Adverb:</b> describes a verb, adjective or another adverb.	clearly, quickly, soon, there
<b>Preposition:</b> relates a noun or pronoun to another word	in, with, of, above, to
<b>Conjunction:</b> joins words, phrases, and sentences	and, but, because, after, when, if
<b>Interjection:</b> expresses a strong emotion or feeling	aha, hooray, oops, yikes, wow



### 3 TYPES OF WRITING

**Argument:** Provides a claim with reasons and evidence to support the claim.

**Informative/Explanatory:** Gives information and ideas in an organized way.

**Narrative:** Tells about a real or imagined event in a sequenced order.

### SYNONYMS AND ANTONYMS

**Synonym:** a word that means nearly the same. Examples (pal/friend..add/sum-up)

**Antonym:** a word that is opposite in meaning to another word. Examples (able/weak...add/subtract)

### ABBREVIATIONS AND CONTRACTIONS

**Abbreviations:** shortened forms of words made by leaving letters out.

**Examples:** (a.m., Dr., Mrs., Mr., Blvd., St)

**Contractions:** formed by putting two words together with certain letters left out. An apostrophe (') is used in place of the missing letters.

**Examples:** (I'm, couldn't, they'll, you're)

### WHEN TO USE CAPITALIZATION

CATEGORY	EXAMPLES
Days of the week, months	Wednesday, Saturday, July, October
Names of people, pets	Greg Hefley, Junie B. Jones, Snoopy
Holidays	Thanksgiving, Lunar New Year, Mother's Day
Historical Events and Periods	The Civil War, the Great Depression
Official Documents	The Declaration of Independence
Titles	President Abraham Lincoln, Mother Teresa
Planets, heavenly bodies	Earth, Saturn, Pluto, the Milky Way
Continents	Australia, North America, Africa
Countries	United States, Brazil, Egypt, Japan
States, cities	New York, Washington, Boston, Los Angeles
Streets, highways, bridges	Park Avenue, Route 66, Brooklyn Bridge
Landforms, national landmarks	The Catskills, The Grand Canyon
Bodies of Water	The Hudson River, The Great Lakes

### BLENDS

**Blends:** two or more consonant sounds that are combined.

**Examples:** (bl, br, cl, cr, dr, fl, fr, gl, gr, nd, nt, pl, pr, sk, sl, st, str, spl, tr, wr)

### HOMONYMS/HOMOGRAPHS

**Homonyms:** words that sound the same but have different meanings. Examples (one/won, write/right, two/to)

**Homographs:** words that have more than one meaning. An example is pool (car pool, swimming pool, pool table)

### PREFIXES/SUFFIXES

**Prefix:** group of letters at the beginning of a word. When attached to a word, its meaning combines with the meaning of the original word to form a new word. Example: prefix. **Pre-** means before and **fix** means to attach, so prefix means to attach before a word.

**Suffix:** a letter or group of letters that attach at the end of a word. Many suffixes change the original word from one part of speech to another. For example, the suffix **-er** changes the verb teach to the noun teacher.

### 5 BASIC RULES FOR SPELLING

1. Words containing "ie" or "ei". "I" before "e" except after "c", or when sounding like "a" as in neighbor or weigh. Examples: piece, deceive.
2. Silent or final e: If a word ends with silent "e", drop the "e" before adding a suffix that begins with a vowel. Examples: (bore/boring, love/loving, skate/skating)
3. Final y: if a word ends in a consonant followed by y, change the y to i before adding a suffix. Examples: (cry/cried, friendly/friendliness, gloomy/gloominess)
4. Consonant preceded by a vowel: If a one-syllable word ends with one consonant with a vowel before it, double the final consonant before adding a suffix. Examples: can/canned, nut/nutty, hop/hopped
5. One-plus-one rule: When a prefix or suffix begins with the same letter with which a main word ends, include both the repeated letters. Examples: mis +spell equals misspell, accidental + ly = accidentally

### FREQUENTLY "MISPELLED" WORDS

"misspelled"  
 absence  
 balloon  
 counselor  
 deceive  
 existence  
 hoarse  
 ninety  
 affect  
 beginning  
 through  
 mischievous  
 noticeable  
 exaggerate  
 disappear  
 disappoint  
 ecstasy  
 embarrass  
 accommodate