

Think CERCA Instructions for Science

In science we are most concerned with concise statements. This means we do not want to be wordy, but want to give the necessary facts in a clearly understood explanation. For this reason, your Think CERCA in science should consist of only one very well written paragraph. The paragraph will contain 6-10 well written sentences with quality content (no fluff). These sentences should include the following 6 steps.

****Note:** No run-on sentences. If it takes a couple of sentences for one of the steps below, in order to get a complete thought-then do it. If you only need one sentence to clearly convey one of the steps below-then do that.

****This assignment will be counted as a test grade, and scored according to the rubric below.**

Steps

1. A statement of claim (this is your introductory statement of what you think is the best answer to the question that is being asked.)
2. A substantial/relative reason for you making the claim that you stated in the introductory statement (step 1).
3. Proof cited from the reading that supports your claim from step 2.
4. A substantial/relative counterclaim (counterargument) to the claim that you stated in the introductory statement (step 1).
5. Proof cited from the reading that supports your counterclaim from step 4.
6. A concluding statement that reinforces your claim statement from step 1, but is not just a generic repeat of step 1.

Grading Rubric (25 total points)

1. 4 points for following all six steps logically, as stated above. The sentences should flow and smoothly tie everything together. This shows your reasoning/thought process.
2. 3 points for step one content.
3. 2 points for step two content.
4. 4 points for step three content.
5. 1 point for step four content.
6. 2 points for step five content.
7. 2 points for step six content.
8. 1 point for a professional writing style (no slang, no abbreviations, no coined phrases...) and correct use of subject/age appropriate vocabulary.
9. 1 point for correct grammar (capitalization, periods, spelling...).
10. 1 point for each of the multiple choice questions in the CERCA that is answered correctly (5 points total).