

AP Psychology
FRQ's Process

A specific process is the best bet to writing a good Free Response essay every time. The process that I have outlined for you below has been used by many teachers with considerable success for a number of years and can work for you too, if you use it.

- 1. Read the question.** The whole question. Every line, every bullet. Look for words that indicate what the question is asking you to do, like describe, define, explain, identify, create, formulate, determine, compare, contrast, evaluate, etc.
 - Count how many points the question is probably worth, which will help you allot your time more efficiently.
2. On the prompt paper, whether in class or on the actual exam, start **jotting down a few ideas for each part of the question**. If there is a part that you know nothing about, leave a space for it – you might think of something later. This will basically be your outline for your response.
- 3. Reread the question.** Make sure that your ideas for the response fit in with what the question is asking.
4. Begin writing your response, **clearly identifying each part of the answer by the beginning of the sentence. Do not write an introductory paragraph**.
 - For example if the prompt wants you to explain how opponent process theory of color vision would be involved when you are watching a movie, you would write “Opponent process theory of color vision would be involved in watching a movie because
5. Again, if there is a part of the question that you do not have an answer for, **begin the sentence anyway and leave off the ending** (like I did in the example above). That way it is apparent to the reader that they have located where that particular portion of your answer would be, but that you have intentionally left it out. Additionally, leave yourself some space after the unfinished sentence (4-5 lines at least) so that if something comes to you later, you can go back and add it.
- 6. Reread the question again and read over your completed response.** If there is anything additional that you need to add at this point, do so at the end of your response and draw arrows, connecting the parts together if necessary.