Criteria for Writing a Successful Constructed Response

* Read the writing prompt.
  + A typical example would be a prompt such as “The Industrial Revolution during the 1800s resulted in many changes in European society. Identify and explain two ways the Industrial Revolution significantly changed European society.”
* Then re-read it carefully to identify all the aspects that require a response. Underline keywords and phrases in the question. The keywords are the verb or verbs, any names, and key terms.
  + For example: The Industrial Revolution during the 1800s resulted in many changes in European society. Identify and explain two ways the Industrial Revolution significantly changed European society.
  + Many prompts will contain the following verbs: explain, describe, compare, contrast, discuss. Pay attention to these verbs and do what they request.
* Your response should start with an introduction
  + Your first sentence should restate the prompt, but **not answer it**.
    - Rewrite it in your own words to make sure that you know exactly what is being asked.
  + The second sentence should be your **thesis statement**, which directly responds to the prompt.
    - The thesis statement is your answer and serves as a “roadmap” for the paper. If the prompt asks for two key points, be sure to put two key points in your thesis statement.
    - For example: The Industrial Revolution significantly transformed European society as it encouraged urbanization and faster movement of people and goods due to the widespread use of railroads.
* The main body is the place to provide examples and support your thesis.
  + You might include ordering or organizing words such as *begin with, first, second, then, next, finally, in conclusion*.
* Develop the main points of your thesis statement to create the opening sentence for each main body paragraph.
  + One key point is equal to one paragraph. Be sure to discuss each key point completely before moving on to the next paragraph.
  + For example: First, the most significant transformation in European society during the Industrial Revolution was urbanization.
    - Subsequent sentences in this paragraph will discuss how urbanization had an impact on European society using specific examples.
* Write a conclusion that adequately summarizes each main point of the body paragraphs.
  + The first sentence of the conclusion should rephrase the thesis statement.
  + The second sentence should reiterate how the ideas described in the body paragraphs correspond to the thesis statement.
  + For example: The Industrial Revolution significantly changed European society through urban migration and widespread construction and use of railways. These technological innovations had multiple consequences on society and revolutionized manufacturing.
* Read carefully your answer and check for grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.
* Reread your answer one more time and ask yourself, “Did I answer the question” and “Is my response clearly written so that it makes sense?”