

# VTS & Constructed Responses



## Building Writers

We're heading into that time of year where teachers and students alike start to feel the pressure to show what they know. Many teachers use strategies, like R.A.C.E., to help students learn how to construct an answer to a question that is supported by evidence. This is a skill that students can use throughout their educations and their lives.

VTS has some natural connections to this process. After all, don't we regularly ask the question: What did you see that makes you say that? To introduce (or to begin a review) of writing constructed responses, consider using artwork or other visual sources as your common "text" for initial practice of a constructed response strategy...

1. Introduce the steps by review what each letter in the acronym means for the constructed response strategy.
2. Inform students that you are going to first practice with a picture as a visual text.
3. Model the behavior connection between what you do during VTS and how you can apply that skill to writing. This can be done initially through discussion before transitioning to a shared writing.
4. Allow students to practice with visual images before transferring the work to a written text.

Remember to choose your image carefully. The VTS questions continue to be part of this process. The use of the VTS questions reminds students that they already have a successful thinking strategy to support their success. These same questions can be transferred over to a written text by simply substituting "read" for "see" in the questions!



## Image Preview

1



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