

Worksheet for a CERS Essay

- ➔ On another page, write down your thoughts as you follow steps 1 through 5 from your handout called “CERS: Claim-Evidence-Reasoning-Synthesis” to determine what your general answer will be. That will be your prewriting.
- ➔ Then use this worksheet to organize those thoughts as you work toward writing your essay.

A. Restate the question as the first part of your claim.

Do not use “I think,” “because,” “yes,” or “no.”

(Example: “Is the moon made of green cheese?” becomes “The moon is not made of green cheese.”)

B. Write a real reason for your statement in part A that will be true for all of the evidence you will use in part C. This is the second part of your claim.

Do not use “because,” and do not repeat part A within part B.

C. **1.** List your supporting evidence from your prewriting, putting each piece of evidence in sentence form. If you think of more evidence that is not in your prewriting, add that, too. If you have decided that some evidence in your prewriting does not fit, leave that out.

2. Explain each piece of evidence so that your reader understands why you are using the evidence to support your claim. This is your reasoning.

⇒ **Use the template on the next page for Part C.**

D. Restate the main idea (that is, what you said in parts A and B) using different words than you used in parts A and B. It is sometimes helpful to restate B in front of A.

➔ Use another page to put this information in order in paragraph form.

1. Write parts A and B together as your first paragraph.
2. Start a new paragraph for Part C. Rearrange the pieces of evidence (with the appropriate reasoning) so that you lead your reader through your explanation. Choose one of the following:
 - a) Put similar kinds of evidence together. Save your strongest evidence for last.
 - or
 - b) Use chronological order (the order in which events occur) to organize your evidence. Try writing a new paragraph for each piece of evidence in Part C. Only if your paragraphs in Part C seem too weak to stand alone should you combine them.
3. Add transition words and phrases (“first,” “next,” “then,” “also,” “but,” “on the other hand,” etc.) to connect your pieces of supporting evidence.

Template for Part C

Evidence Piece 1:

How this piece of evidence supports the claim:

Evidence Piece 2:

How this piece of evidence supports the claim:

Evidence Piece 3:

How this piece of evidence supports the claim:

Evidence Piece 4:

How this piece of evidence supports the claim: