

Guidelines for Writing Effective Response Frames/Starters

Identify the various tasks you will have students engage in during the lesson/unit that warrant a competent verbal response.

Example Lesson Tasks:

- Brainstorming prior knowledge about a topic
- Identifying main ideas and details in a non-fiction text
- Analyzing character traits in a short story
- Justifying perspectives on a historical issue/event
- Drawing conclusions from evidence
- Interpreting a graph
- Generating examples of newly taught concepts/terms

Analyze the linguistic demands of your tasks and prepare academic response starters. Include target vocabulary, sentence structure and grammar, while taking into consideration the English language and literacy levels in your class. Begin by responding to the task yourself in a complete sentence, then extract a response base and determine how you could enhance or modify this frame for your class. In a mixed-ability class, provide two starters that will appropriately stretch more and less proficient students. Assign the first starter to the entire class and require more proficient students (and/or fast finishers) to prepare an additional response using the second starter.

Chapter Pre-Reading Task: Brainstorm reasons people decide to immigrate to the U.S.

Response Starters for Different Proficiency Levels with Clear Content and Language Goals

Beginning (Intensive)

- Some people immigrate to the U.S. to have a better ___ (noun: salary).
- Some people immigrate to have a ___ (adjective: safer) life.

Intermediate (Intensive)

- Many people decide to immigrate because ___ (independent clause - sentence)
- Many immigrants come to the U.S. seeking ___ (noun phrase: a better job)

Early Advanced (Strategic)

- People from diverse countries decide to immigrate because ___ (independent clause - sentence: they are victims of war in their homeland)
- Some families apply for U.S. immigration in order to ___ (verb phrase: escape war)

Advanced (Benchmark)

- Families apply for U.S. immigration for various reasons, including ___ (noun phrase)
- Due to ___ (noun phrase: poverty), many individuals elect to immigrate to the U.S.