

FRQ Action Words

List/Identify

How long? 1 sentence per item

What to do:

- Identify the items in complete sentences
- Explanations are **NOT** necessary

Define

How long? 1 short paragraph per item

What to do:

- Provide meaning of a word
- Examples might show you really know what it means
- Telling why it's important to know definition can be good

Describe

How long? 1 paragraph per item

What to do:

- Use words to portray the item
- Demonstrate your knowledge of the subject

Discuss/Explain

How long? 1 paragraph per item

What to do:

- Explore the relationships between things
- Describe patterns or connections

Cause and Effect

How long? 1 paragraph per item

What to do:

- The first sentence should identify the cause and identify the effect.
- Explain how the cause leads to the effect

Compare/Contrast

How long? 2 paragraphs

What to do:

- **DON'T** just write two paragraphs describing the two things separately
- One paragraph compares, one paragraph contrasts
- Give similarities **AND** differences!

Evaluate/Assess

How long? 1 long paragraph per item

What to do:

- Describe how well something functions
- You need a thesis for this – you can't tell me if it's good or bad at what it does without telling me it if it is good or bad!
- Back up your thesis with real examples!

Analyze

How long? 1 long paragraph

What to do:

- Break down the item into parts as a way of understanding the whole
- Should include specific conclusions with solid evidence to back them up

