

Assignment: Constructed Response

“The Bet” by Anton Chekhov

Prompts (choose one only)

1. Who won the bet, the banker or the lawyer?
2. Is the lawyer a static or dynamic character?
3. What is the overall theme of “The Bet” and how is it developed throughout the story?

Expectations

- Typed, MLA format
- Literary present tense / formal writing
- Response should have at least **two pieces of evidence** followed by commentary
 - One must be a direct quotation
 - One must be a blended quote.
 - Both must include in-text citations
- A self-assessment sheet must be completed and submitted with your constructed response.

Notes: Format of a Constructed Response

Claim

- Introduce text and author
- Answer prompt

Evidence

- Lead into evidence by providing context
- Use a direct quotation or a blended quote (paraphrase with select quoting)
- Include in-text citations

Commentary

- Clarify the evidence by explaining it in your own words
- Explain how the evidence supports the claim

Repeat Evidence and Commentary (as needed)

- Make sure the evidence and commentary support the claim

Concluding Sentence

- End with a closing thought that restates the claim

Notes: Blended Quotation / Ellipses and Brackets/ Direct Quotations

Blended Quotation: A blended quotation uses paraphrasing and selective quoting to seamlessly integrate evidence into an essay.

Ellipses: Use ellipses to indicate that words have been removed from within the direct quote. Ellipses are never used at the beginning or end of a direct quote. Ellipses should not take away from the original meaning or integrity of the direct quote.

Brackets: Use brackets to indicate a change in tense (if possible) or to insert clarifying words into the direct quote. Brackets should not take away from the original meaning or integrity of the direct quote.

Direct Quotation using Ellipses:

“Never shall I forget that smoke. Never shall I forget...the babies and children whose bodies I saw transformed into smoke under a silent sky. Never shall I forget those flames that consumed my faith forever” (Wiesel 22).

Ellipses

Blended Quotation Using Ellipses and Brackets:

Elie witnesses many deaths, including the death of “babies and [small] children whose bodies...transformed into smoke” in the flame of the crematoriums (Wiesel 22).

Brackets

Parenthetical Citation

Ellipses

Breakdown of Sentences

Format of Constructed Response

Claim [Sentence 1]

- Introduce text and author
- Answer prompt

Evidence

- Lead into evidence by providing context [Sentence 2]
- Use a direct quotation or a blended quotation (paraphrase with select quoting) [Sentence 3]
- Include in-text citations [Sentence 3]

Commentary

- Clarify the evidence by explaining it in your own words [Sentence 4]
- Explain how the evidence supports the claim [Sentence 5]

Repeat Evidence and Commentary (as often as needed) [Sentence 6-8]

- Make sure the evidence and commentary support the claim

Concluding Sentence [Sentence 9]

- End with a closing thought that restates the claim

Sample Response

Name

Teacher's Name

Name of Class

Date (written out)

Title that reflects claim and constructed response

The Loyalty of Monsieur Loisel

¹In the short story, "The Necklace" by Guy de Maupassant, Monsieur Loisel is a static character who is devoted to his wife no matter the circumstance. ²Throughout the story, Monsieur Loisel makes every effort to make his wife, Mathilde, happy and to support her no matter the situation. ³He knows that Mathilde longs to socialize with important people, so he secures an invitation from "The Minister of Public Instruction and Madame Georges Ramponneau [for an] evening reception at the Ministerial Mansion on Friday, January 18" (Maupassant 199). ⁴Mathilde, instead of being happy with the invitation to the party and the opportunity to mix with the upper class, bursts into tears and complains that she has nothing new to wear. ⁵Her husband, although surprised at her reaction, attempts to placate her by giving her money to purchase a new dress. ⁶When she then cries about not having jewelry, Monsieur Loisel listens patiently and does not berate her. ⁷Instead, he offers suggestions including a reminder that she can ask her friend, Madam Forestier, "to lend [her] some jewels" (Maupassant 200). ⁸Even when Mathilde loses the diamond necklace that she borrows from her friend on the way home from the party, Monsieur Loisel comforts her and trades everything of value that they own to buy a replacement necklace. ⁹Monsieur Loisel never once complains about his wife's behavior; instead, he willingly moves out of his comfortable home and works more than one job to make ends meet so that Mathilde will not suffer. ¹⁰Mr. Loisel's willingness to make his wife happy, no matter how ungrateful she is or how unreasonable the situation, is what makes him a loyal and unchanging character.