How to write a
RESPONSE TO LITERATURE

Introduction
- The first 2-4 sentences should introduce the <u>title of the book</u>, author, genre, main character(s), main setting, and basic plot.
- The last sentence is your **opinion statement**, which tells the reader what you are writing about. Choose to write about a character, main setting, plot, topic, and/or theme.

<u>Here's an example introduction for a character analysis response:</u>

The Big Box is a fictional children's book written by Toni Morrison. The main characters are Mickey, Liza Sue, and Patty. The story is mainly about freedom and how children and adults view freedom differently. The primary setting is a big box, which is actually a big room where the children are sent as a punishment for misbehaving. Patty, one of the main characters, shows independence throughout the story.

Body
Call in the T.E.A.M!
- First, write a TRANSITION sentence: Tell the reader where in the text is the evidence, what technique the author used to present the evidence, and how it connects to your opinion.
  <u>Here is an example:</u>
  In the beginning of the story, the author uses dialogue and suspenseful action, to show Joey's courage.
- Now, it's time for EVIDENCE. Write 2-4 sentences describing examples from the story that support your opinion.
- Next, you must ANALYZE your evidence. This is where you write 2-3 sentences explaining how and why your examples support your opinion. Use the comparison technique to strengthen your analysis.
  <u>Here is an example:</u>
  All of these behaviors are examples of independence, because Patty is asserting herself and doing things on her own. Most kids her age would not act this way because they would be too afraid of getting in trouble.
- Last, you MAKE A CONNECTION and tell why it is important. Follow these steps: First, write a sentence explaining your connection- text to text, text to self, text to world. Then, write a sentence that explains why your connection is important. Write a thoughtful question, describe an emotional response, or tell a lesson you learned.

Conclusion
- The very first sentence should restate your opinion (the last sentence of your introduction.) Follow the Transition-Subject-Opinion model.
- The last 2-3 sentences should describe a reflection. Describe what a reader may feel, realize, understand, or learn after reading the novel.

<u>Here is an example conclusion for a character analysis response:</u>

Overall, there is specific evidence throughout the story that proves Patty is independent. After reading <u>The Big Box</u>, children may realize that there are consequences to every action. Even though independence can be a good thing, when you are a child, it is important to follow the rules.