

Quick Reference Guide: Short-Constructed Response (SCR)

What Is an SCR Item?

A **Short-Constructed Response (SCR)** is a brief writing task—typically one paragraph—scored on **three traits**, each using a **1–3 scale**. It is designed to assess students' ability to::

- Demonstrate accuracy in understanding the text.
- Communicate ideas with clarity and logical flow.
- Use strong, text-based **supporting details** to develop and explain their thinking.

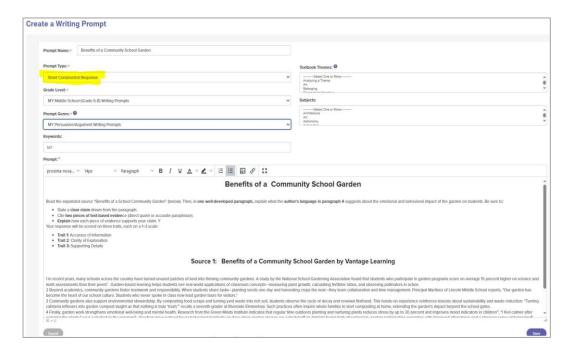
SCR items are ideal for targeting **critical thinking**, **comprehension**, and **textual analysis** within a compact writing task. Short Constructed Responses can be created in any genre, allowing flexibility to assess narrative, informative, literary or argument/persuasive writing

Benefits of SCRs in MY Prompt

- Aligned with state standards and rubric-based grading.
- Easily adapted across grades and content areas.
- Supports formative assessment and targeted feedback.
- Ideal for quick checks of comprehension or close reading.

Authoring Tips for Teachers/Admins

- **Keep it focused**: Use one paragraph of source text for in-depth analysis.
- Align expectations: Ask for specific information(i.e. explain, describe, argue a position, analyze)
- <u>Use the rubric:</u> When crafting prompts, ensure it's possible for students to demonstrate all three traits.





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Teacher Plan: How to Teach Short Constructed Response (SCR) with Source Texts

1. Understand the Prompt

- Highlight action words (e.g., explain, argue, describe).
- Identify required components (claim, evidence, counterclaim).

2. Close Read the Source

- First read: General understanding.
- Second read: Annotate for key facts, signal words, and examples.
- Teach students how to paraphrase and quote accurately.

3. Model a Response (I Do)

- Show how to answer the prompt using a model paragraph.
- Think aloud to explain your choices for claim, evidence, and structure.
- Highlight how you cite the source using line numbers.

4. Guided Practice (We Do)

- Co-write a paragraph using a shared text. .
- Ask students to contribute ideas, transitions, and explanations
- Use sentence frames (e.g., 'This shows that...') to scaffold.

5. Independent Practice (You Do)

- Provide a new prompt and source.
- Use a response planner and checklist for structure.
- Allow peer collaboration or support with a graphic organizer.

6. Feedback and Revision

- Use a rubric to score (e.g., 1–3 scale for Accuracy, Clarity, Support)
- Highlight a strength and one area to improve.
- Students revise their response and reflect on growth.

Bonus Tips:

- Use color-coding to map the prompt to response sections.
- Provide model responses at different levels for comparison.
- Reinforce the 'Say it, Cite it, Explain it' method for supporting claims.