Format for First Focused Response

- Start with the weaker argument
- Do not go over the word limit
- Cover every element of the task
  - Bulleted in the instructions
What’s Expected of You: Response One

“You will read two passages on a particular topic—one **pro** and one **con**. Then:

- **Evaluate** both authors’ claims, deciding which is more compelling
- **Identify** the thesis (stance/ contention/ position)
- **Outline** the claims made to support both positions
- **Determine** the validity and sufficiency of the evidence presented
- **Reach** a conclusion about which position is more compelling”
Outline for Response One

Topic
- Weaker Argument
  - Evidence
  - Evidence
- Stronger Argument
  - Evidence
  - Evidence

Pros and Cons of Homeschooling
- Pro
  - Choice in Curriculum
  - Choice of Location
- Con
  - Lack of Socialization
  - Parents often lack expertise in some subject areas
Suggested Sentence Structure, Paragraph One

‘Introduction—1 sentence: ‘The author of Passage A contends…’

Next—1-2 sentences: State Claim 1 and link to weaker or nonexistent evidence

Next—1-2 sentences: State Claim 2 and link to weaker or nonexistent evidence

Next—1-2 sentences: State Claim 3 and link to weaker or nonexistent evidence

Conclusion—1 sentence: ‘Overall, the argument presented in Passage __ …’”
Suggested Sentence Structure, Paragraph Two

‘Introduction—1 sentence: ‘The author of Passage A contends...’

Next—1-2 sentences: State Claim 1 and link to stronger evidence

Next—1-2 sentences: State Claim 2 and link to stronger evidence

Next—1-2 sentences: State Claim 3 and link to stronger evidence

Conclusion—1-2 sentences: ‘Overall, the argument presented in Passage __ makes a more compelling case for ... based on sound reasoning and convincing evidence.’”
Connecting Claims and Evidence in Focused Responses

- **Negative position:**
  - Somewhat mistaken, incorrect, inadequate, insufficient
  - Not always the case, not necessarily true
  - Highly debatable, speculative
  - Doubts can be raised
  - Little information/work/research/data
  - Few studies/investigations/researchers
  - Little/few/lack/weak

- **Positive position:**
  - Valid, relevant, current, sufficient, convincing, correct, accurate, strong, linked, sound, consistent with, supported
What’s Expected of You: Response Two

“For this task you are expected to integrate the data in the graphic with one of the passages to either support or counter the authors’ claims, reasoning, and/or evidence. The task requires you to:

- Explain how the specific information presented in the graphic either supports or counters the authors’ claims, reasoning, and evidence
- Include examples from the passage and the graphic to support your explanation.”
Suggested Sentence Structure, Response Two

- "Introductory sentence: The information presented in the graphic provides strong support for the argument presented in Passage __.

- OR The information presented in the graphic counters the argument presented in passage __.

- The table shows that… OR As shown in the figure…

- Information/Data from the graphic supports/counts, when the author argues…”
Analyzing Visuals

- "What patterns do you see?"
- What does the graph tell you?"
- How could this data be used?
- What conclusions can be drawn?
- What information is missing?
Homeschool Parents' Highest Educational Level, National Household Educational Survey, 2011

- Less than high school
- High school graduate or equivalent
- Vocational/technical or some college
- Bachelor's degree
- Graduate or professional
Graphic

Homeschool Parents' Highest Education Level, National Household Education Survey, 2011

- Less than high school: 14%
- High school graduate or equivalent: 11%
- Vocational/technical or some college: 25%
- Bachelor's degree: 20%
- Graduate or professional school: 30%
Outline for Response Two

- Analysis of graphic
- Better Argument
  - Evidence
  - Evidence
- Refute Counter Argument
  - Evidence
- Education level of homeschool teachers
- Against Homeschooling
  - All teachers should have Masters’ degrees
  - 11% of parents haven’t finished high school
- Teachers have to teach to the median aptitude level, failing to meet some student needs
  - Parents might also fail to meet some student needs, due to a lack of education and experience