

PARCC QUESTION FORMAT IIa: PCR – Prose Constructed Response, NARRATIVE

The average length expected of a student's essay seems to be between 250 and 400 words

This format requires the student to **create** an original story based upon provided content

Question: The prompt requires the student to create elements of an original story (usually based upon a provided narrative)

One example would be to extend the plot of the provided narrative beyond the last sequence of events in the provided story. This is a student's **demonstration of understanding** based on the **inferences** the student drew from the story.

Question: The prompt may also require the student to create additional facets to the story's character(s) or to perhaps to create an additional, original, character to the story. In both cases, it would probably be a good idea for the student to create dialogue in their original **narrative, sensory** and **descriptive** language and details of the setting.

Comments: This is a requirement to construct a **PCR = Prose Constructed Response**. In this variation of Format II, the student is asked to **create** an original narrative. The concept behind this is for the student to **develop** the content provided by adding **supporting details**.

The guidelines for writing within a **narrative** form are as follows:

The **Context** in which the character(s) exists influences the motivations and behavior of the character(s). Aspects that affect character action and behavior are:

Setting (time and place) such as year, time of day, location, weather

Relationships such as family, friends, rivals, enemies, work colleagues

Influences such as religion, ethnic/cultural background, and social-economic status

Determine the essential conflict faced by the character(s)

When the student creates a **narrative**, he or she should weave several of these aspects into their writing by way of **demonstrating their understanding** of the character(s) and plot. The student should always use descriptive adjectives when focusing on the character(s) such as appearance, attitude, posture, and behavior. Always in a narrative one or more characters have to *do* something.

Student should reference elements from the provided content by recounting the character(s) recent past and use it to inform the student's original **narrative**.

The student should include **sensory** and **descriptive** language, especially when referring to setting or what is heard or felt by the character.

Make sure that the sequence of action invented by the student *makes sense* through smooth and logical transitions and may include a resolution to the conflict.