

SRSD Writing Strategy

Self-Regulated Strategy Development: POW + TREE

Complete your TREE organizer fully before you write a single sentence of your draft.

NAME	PROMPT / POLITICAL QUESTION	DATE

P

P — Pick Your Idea

Choose your position before you do anything else. One sentence. Commit to it.

My position on this question is:

O — Organize ■ Complete every section of TREE before drafting.

T

T — Topic Sentence

State your claim directly — not a question, not “I think,” not a description of the topic. A position you will defend.

Write your claim as a complete sentence that states a position, not a topic:

R — Reasons

R

Give at least two reasons that support your claim. In a government class, reasons come from the Constitution, precedent, data, or political theory.

Reason 1:

Reason 2:

Reason 3 (optional):

E — Explanations

E

Explain HOW each reason proves your claim. Use: “This demonstrates that...” / “This matters because...” / “Without this, the claim would fail because...”

How does Reason 1 prove your claim?

How does Reason 2 prove your claim?

How does Reason 3 prove your claim? (if using)

E**E — Ending**

Restate your position in new words — do not copy your opening sentence. Then explain why this argument matters beyond the classroom.

Restate your claim and connect it to a larger principle of democracy, justice, or constitutional design:

G**My Specific Goal for This Response**

Write this before you draft — not after. Specific goals produce specific, checkable results.

I will include:

W**W — Write Your Draft**

Use your TREE organizer as your guide. Say more than you think you need to — detail and explanation make arguments stronger.



Self-Monitoring Checklist

Check before submitting — this is your revision.

- | | |
|--|---|
| ■ My topic sentence states a clear, arguable claim | ■ I included at least two distinct reasons |
| ■ Reason 1 is explained — not just listed | ■ Reason 2 is explained — not just listed |
| ■ I paraphrased sources in my own words | ■ My ending restates the position in new words |
| ■ My ending connects to a larger principle | ■ I met the specific goal I set before drafting |
| ■ I revised at least one sentence for clarity | ■ The response answers the question fully |



Self-Reinforcement

After you finish, take a moment to acknowledge what you did well. Then identify one thing to improve next time.

I did well at:

Next time I want to improve:
