

A Guide to Short Answer Questions

— Using the OREO Framework —

Yvo Wagian

Dear students,

The midterm exam is approaching! To help you express your ideas clearly and logically in English, this guide introduces the **OREO framework**. Using this structure will help you organize your thoughts and ensure you meet the academic standards of this course.

This is a recommended tool to help you structure your thoughts; feel free to adapt it based on your writing style..

1. The Basic OREO Framework

Best for: Open-ended questions or questions asking for your explanation.

Goal: To provide a clear, evidence-based answer.

Part	Description	Useful Sentence Starters
O (Opinion)	State your answer directly. Don't beat around the bush.	I believe that... / In my view... / In my opinion...
R (Reason)	Explain WHY. Connect your opinion to course concepts.	This is because... / The main reason is... / This is due to...
E (Example)	Provide EVIDENCE. Use facts, data, or theories from class.	For example, ... / For instance, ... / As discussed in the lecture, ...
O (Outcome)	Summarize. Restate your main point in a new way.	All in all, ... / Therefore, ... / In conclusion, ...

Example (Science/Social Issue):

Question: *Is K-pop's global success mainly due to social media?*

- **(O): I believe** social media is the primary driver of K-pop's international success.
- **(R): This is because** platforms like YouTube and TikTok allow fans to share and participate in dance challenges regardless of their location. As the author X/reading X (from the class reading excerpts) suggests...
- **(E): For instance**, the "IDOL" challenge on TikTok helped BTS reach millions of non-Korean speaking fans worldwide.
- **(O): Therefore**, without digital platforms, K-pop would not have the same level of global influence today.

2. The Advanced OREO: Adding "Counter-Argument"

Best for: "Agree or Disagree" or "Either A or B" questions.

Goal: To show **Critical Thinking** by acknowledging the other side.

Part	Description	Useful Sentence Starters
O (Opinion)	State your main position (A or B).	I agree with... / I prefer A over B because...
R (Reason)	Support your position with a strong reason.	One significant advantage is...
C (Counter)	Acknowledge the other side (反方).	Admittedly , some may argue that... / Yet , ...
R (Rebuttal)	Bring it back to your side (反反方).	However , this ignores the fact that... / Despite this, ...
O (Outcome)	Final summary of your stance.	In light of these points, ... / Ultimately, ...



Example (Academic Debate):

Question: *Are global streaming platforms (like Netflix) good for Asian local cultures?*

- **(O)**: I agree that global streaming platforms provide a great opportunity for Asian cultures to reach a worldwide audience.
- **(R)**: These platforms allow local stories to be seen by millions of viewers without traditional geographical barriers. (Use reading/author from the reading whenever possible. As the author of the book/article suggests...)
- **(C)(反方)**: Yet, some worry that these platforms might "Westernize" local content to satisfy global tastes.
- **(R)(反反方)**: However, shows like *Squid Game* prove that highly localized stories can remain authentic and still achieve global success.
- **(O)**: All in all, these platforms act as a bridge for deeper inter-Asian and global communication.

3. Academic Vocabulary Upgrade

If you would like to make your answers sound more professional, try replacing these common words:

	
"I think..."	"I maintain that..." "It can be argued that..."
"Because..."	"This is due to the fact that..."
"And..."	"Furthermore," "In addition,"
"But..."	"However," "On the other hand,"
Finally / At the end...	"All in all," "In summary,"

4. What is the answer we expect?

Before you move to the next question, check your answer for the following:

1. **Direct Answer:** Did I answer the question in the very first sentence?
2. **Keywords:** Did I use key terms or theories from the textbook?
3. **Logic:** Is there a clear transition between my reason and my example?
4. **Length:** Is it concise? (Usually 3–5 sentences are enough for a short answer).

Conclusion:

Don't be afraid of making grammar mistakes! Focus on **logical structure** and **using course concepts**. Instead of grammar or convoluted vocabulary, your opinion is the most important part.

OREO framework is easy to learn, I hope this handout would help your first EMI midterm exam. Relax and Good luck with your midterm!