

## How to prepare your pre-discussion report.

**Questions:** Be sure to answer all parts of the question. Just a discussion of the general theme is not enough. Provide complete explanations and plenty of detail. Be sure to explain your answers thoroughly and to explain the evidence that supports your answers.

**Your question:** In a sentence or two, describe an issue that was brought up in the article. Make it clear how your question relates to this context. Ask a question that you can't already answer, ideally a question whose answer is not provided in the article.

### How to improve two common writing problems:

**Problem 1)** *Little information is provided.*

In the next section of the article, the author goes on to describe how Mickey Mouse evolved.

**Improvement:** *Leave out unnecessary information and give a description.*

Mickey Mouse evolved as artists, over the course of many years, drew his eyes larger and larger.

**Problem 2)** *Little evidence of your understanding.*

a) *A direct quotation gives no evidence that you understand the idea.*

“Orchids manufacture their intricate devices from the common components of ordinary flowers.”

b) *Plagiarism is academically dishonest and does not show that you understand the idea.*

Orchids manufacture their intricate devices from the common components of ordinary flowers.

b) *Rearranging words and changing a few words is still plagiarism.*

Orchids manufacture, from the common components of flowers, their complex devices.

d) *Substituting synonyms is not plagiarism, but usually obscures the meaning.*

Orchids assemble their obscure plans from the general apparatus of average flowers.

**Improvement:** *Express the idea with different words and a different sentence structure, including additional supporting details.*

In orchids, the usual flower parts, like petals, are modified into a variety of structures to attract pollinators.