

# Short Answer Response Example and Organization

## Organization:

Topic Sentence—the superficial answer to the question—one sentence

Explanation of the answer in your own words—two to three sentences

Proof from the text to back up your answer—may be a quote or paraphrase

Connect the proof to your answer by explaining the how the proof relates to the answer or proves the point you are trying to make—three to four sentences

## Example #1:

Who has the “tell-tale” heart in the story—the narrator or the old man? Defend your position on this question with specific information from the story.

The narrator in the story written by Edgar Allen Poe is the one with the “tell-tale”

*(topic sentence—superficial answer to question)*

heart. Throughout the selection, the narrator experiences bouts of heightened emotional

*(explanation of answer in own words)*

stress due to the plot against the old man. During these periods, he, the narrator, hears a muffled heartbeat at critical times in the plot that proves it is his own beating pulsation.

On page 838, when the narrator is about to kill the old man, the “...hellish tattoo of the heart

*(quote or paraphrased PROOF)*

increased. It grew quicker and quicker, and louder and louder every instant... And now a new anxiety seized me...” The narrator’s report of the heartbeat provides the reader with the

image of an anxious man on the verge of a murder that barely possesses the ability to control

*(connection between answer and proof)*

himself physically or emotionally. The narrator, later in the story, has killed the old man;

however, the heartbeat eventually returns to divulge the narrator’s secret to the

unsuspecting police. Even though the characterization of the narrator has many complexities,

he never truly understands that the heartbeat is his own.