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Three years ago, during an afternoon of grading IAB constructed responses on the WAC testing portal, I came across an interesting pattern in student responses. I recognized that most of our students had no concept of organizing their thoughts and evidence and routinely left out important components of the prompt-causing them to consistently score zeros on every written question. However, there was a select group of students who had a very succinct way of answering the questions and were more likely to get full credit on their responses. Ultimately, I took this data to my intermediate teachers and showed them the patterns. It became clear that we needed to drive our focus on a seemingly simple, but high leverage strategy that we called RACE and RISK. RACE stands for Restate, Answer, Cite and Explain. RISK stands for Restate, Infer, (based on what you) See and Know. We started breaking down this strategy for our third, fourth and fifth graders and began doing monthly "check ins" by collecting responses and providing specific and immediate feedback to students. We soon realized how important it was for our primary students to begin using these strategies in earlier grades, and over the last year, I have helped our K-5 teachers collaborate and align a K-5 vertical rubric that includes student work samples. Since implementing RACE and RISK, our SBA scores have drastically improved and our school has risen in rank from 14th in the district, to second!