Response/Essay Prompt Language

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| **Key Words in Prompt**  **If you are asked to…** | **Tasks**  **Then you…** |
| Identify, show, describe | State the distinguishing characteristics of a subject or the meaning of a term. Use specific details |
| Explain | Tell why and how |
| discuss, explore | Make an event, process, problem or relationship clear and understandable. Include examples and reasons |
| trace | Give sequence of events , how they lead in to each other and relate to the whole |
| Summarize | Give a condensed description that gets to the main idea/importance |
| Compare, contrast | State likenesses and difference. Support your points with details and examples |
| Interpret, contextualize | Consider the significance of a subject in the context of your total knowledge and explain in your own words |
| Analyze | Break subject down into its parts showing how they function and relate to the whole. Use facts and examples |
| Synthesize | Put pieces together to make sense for your purpose |
| Evaluate | Make a specific judgment and support with evidence |