Common RACE Mistakes

1. **Beginning by rewriting the question. Just restate it and answer.**

Example question:

What do you think? Should we ban competitive eating? Write your answer in an AEC paragraph.

Student Example:

Should we ban competitive eating? No we should not because…

1. **Many reasons (C) and very little or no explanation.**

Example:

We should ban competitive eating because there are many health risks involved. The article states that several people died in eating contests. It can also cause problems such as obesity, diabetes, heart disease and stomach problems. It’s also a waste of food. The article says 805 million people go hungry while people down crazy amounts of food for entertainment. It’s not worth dying or getting health problems for someone else’s entertainment.

Example:

Competitive eating should be banned because it causes health problems. For example, the article stated it causes obesity, heart disease and diabetes. It also says a woman almost choked to death in an eating contest. It also said a guy ate 38 eggs in 29 seconds and almost died. For these reasons, competitive eating should be banned.

1. **Unorganized thoughts**- give evidence, explain it, give another piece of evidence, explain it, go back to the first piece of evidence again, explain more, give another piece of evidence, etc. (see above and below)
2. **Lots of repetition to get more sentences.**

Example:

We should not ban competitive eating because it’s a tradition. People have been doing it for centuries. The article talks about the Romans having gorging banquets. If the Roman’s started it hundreds of years ago, why should we stop it? It’s a tradition that people like. If people like it, it shouldn’t be stopped. People have been having eating contests for many years, and people today just need to accept it. If people want to put their lives at risk, it’s their choice. It’s been going on for this long, so it must not be that bad. So we shouldn’t ban competitive eating since it’s a tradition.

**5. Explanation just restates the evidence.**

Example: Competitive eating should be banned because it causes health problems. For example, the article stated it causes obesity, heart disease and diabetes. This means that competitive eating will cause you to have many health problems. It is bad for you because you can suffer from obesity, heart disease and diabetes. This is why competitive eating should be banned.

**6. Start a new topic in the explanation.**

Example: Competitive eating should be banned because it causes health problems. For example, the article stated it causes obesity, heart disease and diabetes. This shows that competitive eating is bad for you. Also, a lot of food is wasted during competitive eating. All of that food should not be eaten by people who aren’t hungry. It’s not good for you. That explains why competitive eating should be banned.