



THE MODEL ANSWER AUTOPSY

Pull apart a successful response so students can see why it works.



THE IDEA

Good answers aren't magic.
They're made of choices.

Analysing a model answer helps EAL learners see the language, structure and thinking behind success — so they can replicate it in their own way.

Deconstruct.

Understand.

Reconstruct.



IN THE CLASSROOM

- Select a strong model answer for the same task.
- Hide the answer and give students the question first.
- Analyse the model together using a simple framework.
- Highlight the language, structure and ideas.
- Let students plan or write their own answer.
- Compare and reflect.

THE 4 STEPS

1

PRESENT THE TASK

Start with the question.

- Give students the same question.
- Let them attempt or plan a response.
- Don't show the model answer yet.

Goal: Students grapple with the task first.

2

DISSECT THE MODEL

Take the model answer apart.

- Read the model together.
- Identify the structure and order.
- Highlight key vocabulary and phrases.
- Note techniques: examples, data, connectives, comparisons, evaluation.

*Ask: What makes this answer effective?
What choices did the writer make?*

3

EXPLAIN THE EFFECT

Link choices to impact.

- Why does this phrase work here?
- How does this example support the idea?
- What's the purpose of this sentence?
- What is the writer trying to achieve?

Focus on how language creates meaning and persuades the reader.

4

APPLY IT YOUR WAY

Reconstruct your own answer.

- Use the insights to plan your response.
- Try the same techniques in your own words.
- Write, then self-check against the checklist.

Goal: Transfer the toolkit, not copy the answer.



WHY IT WORKS

It reveals the invisible craft behind good writing.
It builds writing awareness and academic control.
It empowers students to make intentional choices.



EAL UPGRADE

- Pre-teach key vocabulary from the model.
- Use sentence frames to practise key moves.
- Create a visual map of the model answer.



TRY IT TOMORROW

- Pick one model answer for a class task.
- Run the 4 steps.
- Let students write using the strategies they discovered.



TEACHER LANGUAGE

*"Let's pull this answer apart."
"What technique is the writer using here?"
"Why does this choice work?"
"Now use it your way."*

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