**Writing About Texts: Practice with Constructing Response Questions – Sample “Clean Energy”**

Directions: Read the passage on the left.  Don't forget to warm it up!  Read the question carefully.  Highlight the key words in the question that are telling you what you need to write about.  Use the highlighter to locate evidence from the text to use in your answer.  Use words from the question in your first sentence.  Write your answer in several sentences and include evidence from the text.  Reread to make sure you answered the whole question.

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| Clean Energy  Power from the Sun and Wind  Learn about Earth-friendly energy.  What do people need to light their homes and drive cars? Energy! It gives power to many things we need and use.  Most of the energy people use comes from coal, oil, and gas. They are called fossil fuels. Those fuels come from fossils under the ground. Fossils are the remains of plants and animals that lived long ago.  Burning fossil fuels pollutes the air. The air becomes dirty. That can be harmful to people, animals, and plants.  Now more people are using clean energy. Such energy does not pollute the air. Two kinds of clean energy are wind power and solar power. Solar means “from the sun.”  Solar Power:  The sun gives Earth heat and light. Some homes have solar panels on the roof. The panels collect sunlight and turn it into electricity. That is a kind of energy. It lets people do many things. For example, we use electricity to light our homes and watch television. Solar power can also be used to warm up the water in our homes.  Wind Power  People can turn wind energy into electricity. Wind turbines are machines that spin when the wind blows. They make electricity. Wind turbines are often as tall  as 20-story buildings. The blades can be more than 100 feet long.  Wind turbines are grouped together in wind farms. Some wind farms have hundreds of wind turbines. The Roscoe Wind Farm in Texas has 627 turbines. They can power 230,000 homes. |  | **Question** |
| **Explain how the author defines “clean energy”. Use details from the text to support your answer.** |
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| The author thinks clean energy is good. The energy is friendly. | The author defines clean energy as energy that is friendly for the earth. These kinds of energy don’t pollute. You can use the wind or the sun to make energy. | Clean energy is a term defined by the author in this passage as any form of energy that doesn’t pollute the air. The two kinds described in the passage are solar and wind power. Solar power comes from solar panels on the roof of people’s houses. The energy can be turned into electricity for lights or warm water for bathing. Wind power comes from turbines that turn when the wind blows. This makes electricity for houses. Many wind turbines make up wind farms and there is one in Texas that can light up 230,000 homes. |