Using the Better Answer Method (BAM)

The Better Answer Method (BAM) is a strategy Golda Meir students use to ensure they generate the best written responses for writing prompts, test questions, essays, and journal entries. BAM helps us improve writing skills and reinforces correct use of English writing conventions such as spelling and punctuation.

The BAM has 5 steps:

1. **Restate the question.**
	1. Always start your answer by rephrasing the prompt that was given. This helps you to ensure you have answered the question presented and readers are aware of the topic as well.
2. **Generate a “gist” response.**
	1. Giving a gist response is the equivalent to writing a thesis statement. Make it clear to the reader exactly what point you want to make.
3. **Add detail.**
	1. Add evidence that will support your claims, prove your answer is correct, or strengthen the argument made in the gist response.
4. **Edit.**
	1. Proofread your response. Always check your CUPS (Capitalization, Usage, Punctuation, and Spelling). Are all proper nouns capitalized? Have you used commas appropriately? Are verbs in the appropriate tense? Have you spelled every word correctly? Making the appropriate revisions ensures that your reader doesn’t misunderstand your intended meaning because of grammatical errors and typos.
5. **Check.**
	1. **Reread the prompt and your answer. Have you answered the question thoroughly and added sufficient detail? Have you included any unnecessary information that can be taken out? Read your answer one last time just to be sure.**

**The BAM can be applied to every writing task. Use it in every class for every writing assignment.**

**It’s the Golda Way!**