Tips for Writing a Response to the Text-Dependent Writing (TDW) Prompt

The Writer’s Checklist was designed to help you understand the expectations of the TDW.

**Writer’s Checklist**

**PROOFREAD after you write**

- I addressed all parts of the writing task.
- I included evidence from the text to support ideas in my essay.
- I stayed organized and focused on the writing task.
- I used correct language, a variety of sentence types, and paragraph transitions in my essay.
- I corrected errors in capitalization, spelling, sentence formation, punctuation, and word choice.
- I reread the essay to make sure it was clear and well organized.

1. **The TDW requires an extended response.** Your response must be focused on the task and organized to include a strong introduction, body, and conclusion. The writing needs to be clear and well organized.

2. **Organization matters.** A TDW response needs to be structured in a logical way. Your thoughts and claims need to be organized in a way that makes sense for readers. Transition words and phrases should be used to show logical connections and to clarify the flow of your writing.

3. **You MUST support** your response with evidence from the text(s). The evidence can be cited word for word from the text(s) or it can be paraphrased.

4. **Answering the TDW requires higher-level thinking skills.**
   - Think—read the TDW task and analyze the text(s) to determine how to address the writing task
   - Infer—use evidence and your own logic to provide a new idea about why the examples you provided matter to the task and relate to the evidence
   - Evidence—examine the text(s) for examples that support your ideas or claims
   - Elaborate—explain what the evidence means