

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