Tips for Writing a Response for Text-Dependent Writing (TDW)
Informative/Explanatory Grades 6–8

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

**Writer’s Checklist**

PROOFREAD after you write your informative/explanatory essay.

- I addressed all parts of the writing task.
- I included evidence from the text(s) 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 transitions in my essay.
- I corrected errors in sentence formation, grammar, usage, and mechanics.
- I reread my 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 be 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 need to be organized in a way that makes sense for readers. Transitional 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.
   - **Examine:** Search the text(s) for examples and evidence to use in your writing that support your ideas.
   - **Elaborate:** Explain what the evidence means.