

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.