

Tips for Writing a Response for Text-Dependent Writing (TDW) Narrative 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 narrative.

- I addressed all parts of the writing task.
- I included connections from the source material(s) in my narrative.
- I stayed organized and focused on the writing task.
- I used correct language, a variety of sentence types, and transitions in my narrative.
- I corrected errors in sentence formation, grammar, usage, and mechanics.
- I reread my narrative 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 opening, complete plot, point of view, conflict, setting, well-developed characters, and a closing. The writing needs to be clear and well organized.

2. **Organization matters**. A TDW response needs to be structured in a logical way. Your plot needs 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 connect** your response to the text(s). The connections should be specific and contribute to the narrative.

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 details and your own ideas about the text to create or continue a narrative.
- **Connect:** Examine the text(s) for details to use in your writing that support your narrative.