The English language arts (ELA) section of the Forward Exam presents students with a Text-Dependent Analysis (TDA) question. A TDA requires students to use their best writing skills to form an essay. Within the essay, the student must respond to a question and support their answer (claims, opinions, ideas) using evidence from the passage(s) read. The TDA allows students to demonstrate their ability to interpret the meaning behind the passage by writing an analysis and providing supporting evidence.

**Successful TDA**

- Demonstrate a deep understanding of the passage(s).
- Thoroughly analyze passage(s) to support claims, opinions, and ideas.
- Use a strong organizational structure with effective introduction, body, and conclusion paragraphs.
- Reference the passage(s) using main ideas, details, examples, quotes, and/or facts as evidence.
- Use precise language from the passage(s).
- Use proper grammar and punctuation.
- TDA measures how well students can use what they have read to create an essay based on the evidence from the passage.
- Students have the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding beyond recalling basic facts.
- By implementing the Wisconsin Academic Standards, educators have been teaching the reading and writing skills needed for the TDA.
- The TDA assesses the skills that students are already learning in the classroom.
- The standards the TDA focuses on connect reading for evidence with analyzing the passage(s) students read.