

Text-Dependent Analysis (TDA)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is the Text-Dependent Analysis?

The TDA is an item in the Forward Exam ELA test. Students are asked to read a passage(s) and respond to a writing prompt using evidence from the passage(s) to support their opinion, claims, and ideas.

Why is the TDA part of the Forward Exam?

The TDA is linked to the [ELA Standards](#) for writing which includes a requirement for students to draw evidence from literary or information texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

What skills are needed to complete the TDA?

Students must be able to demonstrate their analytical skills in addition to their writing skills. They must be able to draw evidence from the passage(s) to support their claims in response to the writing prompt in a comprehensive, organized one-page essay.

Is the TDA the only way the writing standards are assessed on the Forward Exam?

There is another session within the ELA portion of the exam that assesses writing and language standards such as grammar, punctuation, writing for an audience, research, and organization.

Where can I find the TDA score on the Individual Student Report (ISR)?

The TDA score is worth eight points, which are included in the text-types and purposes category under the writing/language reporting category of ELA on the ISR. Students are scored on a [0-4 point rubric](#), which is then multiplied by 2 for their final score of 0, 2, 4, 6, or 8 points.

What resources are available to prepare students for the TDA?

Resources available for student preparation:

- **Student Tutorial** – web-based video which briefly goes over the TDA with students and the functionality of the item in the testing system.
- **Online Tools Training** – allows students to practice the TDA in the online testing system environment, with the tools available to them during the exam.
- **TDA Item Sampler** – PDF of sample TDAs by grade band with samples of student responses at different score levels.
- **Writers Checklist** – available as a universal reference tool as part of the online Forward Exam. Also available as a part of the TDA Item Sampler.

What TDA resources are available to teachers?

- TDA Scoring Rubric
- TDA Fact Sheet – Quick reference sheet about the TDA
- TDA Training Presentation for Educators
- Tips for Writing a TDA Response
- How to Organize a TDA

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