Tips for Writing a Text-Dependent Analysis (TDA) Response

Use the Writer’s Checklist (provided in the Forward Exam during testing) to plan, focus, and proofread your writing.

1. Your essay must be multiple paragraphs.
   - Introduction
   - Body (2-3 paragraphs)
   - Conclusion

2. The flow of your writing matters.
   - Be sure to organize your paragraphs and details logically (in a way that makes sense)
   - Use transition words and/or phrases to help the reader understand your writing

3. Give examples from the text to support your answer.
   - Use 2-3 examples from the text
   - Cite the text word-for-word from the passage
   - Paraphrasing is acceptable if done correctly

4. Higher level thinking skills are required.
   - Think – Examine – Explain
   - Evidence – Examine the passage for examples that support your answer
   - Elaborate – Explain what the evidence means
   - Infer – Use evidence and your own information or logic to provide a new idea about why the example you provided matters to the prompt and relates to the evidence

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