Tips for Writing a

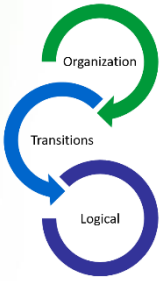
Text-Dependent Analysis (TDA) Response

This resource is for classroom use only and may not be used during the Forward Exam.

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

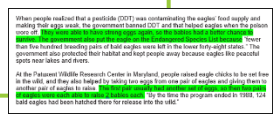


2. The flow of your writing matters.

- 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



When people realized that a pesticide (DDT) was contaminating the eagles' food supply and making their eggs weak, the government banned DDT and that helped eagles when the poison wore off. They were able to have strong eggs again, so the babies had a better chance to survive. The government also put the eagle on the Endangered Species List because fewer than five hundred breeding pairs of bald eagles were left in the lower forty-eight states. "The government also protected their habitat and kept people away because eagles like peaceful spots near lakes and rivers.

At the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland, people raised eagle chicks to be set free in the wild, and they also helped by taking two eggs from one pair of eagles and giving them to another pair of eagles to raise. The first pair usually had another set of eggs, so then two pairs of eagles were able to raise a baby's eagle. By the time the program ended in 1988, 124 bald eagles had been hatched there for release into the wild."

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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WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Tony Evers, PhD, State Superintendent