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

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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