Text-Dependent Analysis
Reading Response Strategies

Directions: Carefully read over the following strategies for writing a response to a Text-Dependent Analysis Question (TDA).

A Text-Dependent Analysis Question (TDA) is based on a passage or passage set that you have read. Both literature and informational texts can be addressed by this question type.

You MUST use information from the passage or passages in order to develop a complete, correct response to a TDA.

Keep in mind that your Text-Dependent Analysis Response should include three main parts:

1. Introduction
2. Body (must include supporting text-based details)
3. Conclusion

- Read the directions first. Highlight any significant information that may help you to understand what the question is asking.
- Make sure that you have read the entire passage carefully and more than one time.
- Think about what the question is asking about the passage(s) and how the question relates to the passage(s). Are you asked to compare/contrast? Are you asked to identify the quality traits of a character? Are you asked about one passage only or to make a connection between texts?
- Next, develop an introduction that restates the question in your own words. Use key words from the question to build your introduction. Be sure to identify your opinion, topic, or controlling idea related to the text(s). It may be as simple as turning the question into a statement of your idea and building your introduction from that basic idea. However, NEVER begin your response with Yes or No.
- Do not be overly “wordy.” Keep it simple, on topic, and to the point. Avoid “announcing” what you are going to write about. DO NOT state, “These are some ways,” or “Here are reasons why,” or “I am going to tell you.”
• Use a graphic organizer to gather and organize your thoughts for your essay response. For example, if asked to compare and contrast two things, you could use a Venn Diagram. On the other hand, if asked to characterize someone in the selection, you may want to create a Character Web. You may also choose to use a 4Square.

• Next, analyze the information from the passage(s), decide on a minimum of three ideas you believe to be the best to include in your response. Decide in which order your ideas should be presented.

• Ask yourself when creating your graphic organizer, "Do these details truly support the ideas I chose?" Are my details based on the text (story)?

• Use complete sentences throughout your response always making sure you are using evidence from the passage(s) to support your response.

• Be specific in your response. Use precise language and a variety of sentences. DO NOT overuse pronouns. Instead, state the names of characters, events, places, and times. Tell specifically who, what, when, and where so as not to confuse the reader.

• Use transition words such as first, in addition, therefore, both, as a result of, etc. to connect your ideas.

• Be sure not to include your personal comments or opinions unless directly told to do so in the question. You must be able to support your ideas with details from the text rather than your personal experiences.

• Never copy text directly from the passage. Use your OWN words!

• Finally, develop a conclusion that restates your introduction by indentifying an opinion, topic, or controlling idea related to the text(s). Avoid using words such as, this, that, these, those, there, and here. DO NOT state—“These were some ways . . .” “Those were some reasons why. . .”

• ALWAYS Review your work! Be sure to correct errors in capitalization, spelling, sentence formation, punctuation, and word choice. MECHANICS MATTER!!!