

TEXT DEPENDENT ANALYSIS:

Written responses to a prompt based on reading or viewing a text or texts.

Sample TDA prompt: In the passage “Two Amazing Tales of Memory,” the concept of memory is discussed. Write an essay analyzing the effect that Mr. S’s memory had on his life. Use evidence from the passage to support your response.



REMEMBER

- Close reading of the text is essential (Read with your pencil in hand and mark up the text(s) for later reference.)
- Three blank pages are allotted for your essay.
- Make a prewriting plan.
- Craft a clear thesis statement that contains the text(s) title(s), overall idea, and key words from the prompt.
- Write multiple paragraphs, and make sure each body paragraph has a topic sentence, transitions, and a concluding sentence.
- Develop your thesis and ideas with explicit (directly from text) and implicit (implied or inferred from text) evidence.
- Explain thoroughly how the evidence supports your ideas and thesis.
- Story, poem, article titles are always in quotation marks.
- Use a formal tone and academic language.

Sample TDA synthesis prompt: The passage and the poem address a similar theme. Write an essay analyzing how the passage and the poem develop this theme. Use evidence from both the passage and the poem to support your response.

SYNTHESIS ESSAY: TDA BASED ON TWO OR MORE TEXTS

- Apply all the above suggestions.
- Write at least four paragraphs.
- Do not write about one piece without linking it to the other.
- Use transitions of comparisons and/or contrast.
- Make sure the reader knows which piece you are referencing by alluding to title, author, or speaker/character’s name.

Nail ELA Writing



Planning is essential:

(Create your party paper. Designate about 15 minutes to planning.)

- ✓ Use scratch paper.
- ✓ Remember the elements and organization of each mode/purpose.
- ✓ Write out a thesis.
- ✓ Plan main idea and order of body paragraphs.
- ✓ Make notes to refer to for content as you write your body paragraphs.

Address the prompt:

- ✓ Use key words from the prompt in your thesis.
- ✓ Make sure you address all parts of the prompt.
- ✓ Consider the audience.

Length matters:

- ✓ TDA – three blank pages
- ✓ Narrative, Informative, & Argumentative – two blank pages
- ✓ All essays should be developed over multiple paragraphs. (Remember to indent.)

Writing:

- ✓ Maintain a formal tone and academic form.
- ✓ Avoid second person point of view (~~you~~).
- ✓ Use evidence and explanation to support your ideas
- ✓ Take time—**about 15 minutes**—to PROOFREAD.

Handwriting matters:

- ✓ Write as neatly as possible.
- ✓ Stay within margins of paper.
- ✓ Do not skip lines.