

Text-Dependent Analysis





What is Text-Dependent Analysis?



- Pennsylvania Core Standards identifies text-dependent analysis as the ability to “draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research”.
- Prompts to measure the Pennsylvania Core Standards will move beyond general reading comprehension to specific questions that require the use of text-dependent evidence

An Overview of Text Dependent Analysis



Good text-specific questions will often linger over specific phrases and sentences to ensure careful comprehension of the text—they help students see something worthwhile that they would not have seen on a more cursory reading.

TDA requires students to:



- Analyze paragraphs on a sentence-by-sentence basis and sentences on a word-by-word basis to determine the role played by individual paragraphs, sentences, phrases, or words
- Investigate how meaning can be altered by changing key words and why an author may have chosen one word over another
- Probe each argument in persuasive text, each idea in informational text, each key detail in literary text, and observe how these build to a whole

TDA requires students to:



- Examine how shifts in the direction of an argument or explanation are achieved and the impact of those shifts
- Question why authors choose to begin and end when they do
- Note and assess patterns of writing and what they achieve
- Consider what the text leaves uncertain or unstated

Text Dependent Question Comparison



Previous Short Answer

1 What is a lesson the judge teaches the baker? Use at least two examples from the passage to explain your response.

New Passage-Based Short Answer

2 How does the description of the “ice-skating” bison support the idea that animals play in groups? Use information from the passage to support your answer.

Text Dependent Analysis

3 The passages discuss the impact that people have had on the bald eagle. Write an essay analyzing how people are helping the bald eagle increase in numbers. Use information from **all** three passages to support your response.

Text Dependent | Text Dependent Analysis



Amelia Earhart has been depicted as a daring, courageous person. Identify at least three events that demonstrate these traits. Then write a summary of Amelia Earhart's life.

The authors of each of the two texts about Amelia Earhart have stated that she was a daring, courageous person. Consider the argument each author made to demonstrate her bravery. Write an essay that analyzes the strength of the arguments using textual evidence to support your ideas.

Examples | Non Examples



- Read the four sample prompts to determine if they meet the criteria of Text Dependent Analysis.
- Be ready to defend or explain your thinking.
- Discuss as a table group and attempt to reach consensus.

Creating a TDA



Example from *Because of Winn Dixie*, by Kate DiCamillo

Synopsis of Story: Opal has just moved to a new town in a new state and has no friends yet. Through a series of comic mishaps inadvertently started by her very special dog, Winn-Dixie, Opal meets Miss Franny, the town librarian. Opal realizes that they have much in common and a friendship is ignited.

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Steps 1-3:

1. Closely read and annotate the text.
2. Identify essential understandings and key supporting details from the text (what is noteworthy and what supports this) individually then as a table group.
3. Identify academic vocabulary and key text structures that are connected to the essential understandings and key ideas.

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Example of an Essential Understanding

Two people of very different ages may still have much in common and become friends.

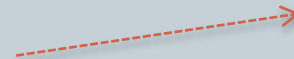
Creating a TDA



Step 4: What Text-Dependent Analysis Question could you ask about this text?

Sample TDA prompt:

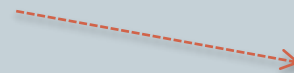
The drama focuses on events in the life of Florence Nightingale. Write an essay analyzing how the three scene structure of the drama emphasizes certain characteristics of Florence. Use evidence from the drama to support your response.



Set-up for the prompt. (optional)



The analytical prompt.



Emphasis on text-based response.

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Example of a TDA prompt

The author of the “Because of Winn Dixie” uses a dog to introduce two people. Write an essay analyzing why “Because of Winn Dixie” is an appropriate title for the passage. Be sure to use evidence from the text to support your analysis.

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Step 5: What key details would a student pull from the text to support responding to the prompt?

Consider: Does your prompt require analysis supported by key details from the text? If not, revise your prompt.

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Step 5: What key details would a student pull from the text to support responding to the prompt?

Students should explain, using explicit and implicit evidence from the text, including:

- how Winn-Dixie looking into the library was the cause of Miss Franny falling, which in turn led to the story about the bear and Opal's realization that she and Miss Franny were both lonely.
- relating how Winn-Dixie's response to Miss Franny ("That dog is smiling at me") endeared her to Winn-Dixie and led Opal to suggest that they could be friends.

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- showing a clear understanding of how this progression of events led to the three characters becoming friends using text evidence including words and phrases, such as “talent” and “huge heart” were traits that made all this possible.
- an explanation of how the student knows that this text evidence is relevant.

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Step 6: What standards does this text-dependent analysis question address?

Examine the PA Core Standards or Eligible Content. If your prompt doesn't match any eligible content, revise.

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With a partner, write your essential understanding and your “final draft” prompt on an index card.

Double date with another partnership in the room.

Provide feedback (clarifying question, praise, push, etc.)

Closing Thoughts



What does a classroom/school/district look like when evidence-based reading and writing is a priority?

What are the opportunities and challenges related to the shift toward evidence-based reading and writing?

