The What and Why of Text-Dependent Analysis
Leveraging Text-Dependent Analysis for Learning

Text-dependent analysis (TDA) is a powerful strategy that students and teachers can use to assess deep understanding of a given text. Writing prompts that require TDA are designed so that students use close reading strategies to form a response that relies primarily on the text itself.

Before diving into TDA during our Day 1 session, consider the differences between TDA prompts and other prompts that require open-ended or experiential responses. ACT® writing prompts can help teachers consider the type of response needed for a given prompt. Understanding and

reviewing ACT prompts can provide insight into what students are expected to do to be college ready.

Before the TDA Day 1 session, read the prompts below. The first two are ACT prompts, and the third is similar to those found on the ACT writing test. Consider whether each prompt aligns with a TDA, open-ended, or experiential response and capture your thinking in the table below. Note that while other types of responses are possible, we will narrow our focus to these three for this exercise.

Prompts

Intelligent Machines

http://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/Sample-Writing-Prompt.pdf

Kid Stuff (see p. 54)

http://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/Preparing-for-the-ACT.pdf

Public Health and Individual Freedom

https://cdn2.hubspot.net/hubfs/360031/ACT-2015-16.pdf?t=1537146064256#page=54&zoom=auto,-15,791

Prompt	Type of response required	Reasoning and considerations
Intelligent Machines	☐ Text-dependent analysis ☐ Open-ended ☐ Experiential	
Kid Stuff	☐ Text-dependent analysis ☐ Open-ended ☐ Experiential	
Public Health and Individual Freedom	☐ Text-dependent analysis ☐ Open-ended ☐ Experiential	

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