Steps to Writing an Effective TDA!

**STEP ONE:** Look at the prompt! Most likely, this will be after the passage, but look at it before! Pay close attention to the second sentence of the prompt; it’s the most important one.

**STEP TWO:** Read the passage. Highlight anything in the passage that you think could help you answer the prompt while you read. Re-read if necessary.

**STEP THREE:** Plan your writing by creating a thesis statement. Write this on a piece of scrap paper. Try to create three different points in your thesis statement. Be sure to use some of the same words found in the second sentence of your prompt.

**STEP FOUR:** Plan your writing by picking out evidence from the passage that will support your thesis statement. Write your evidence on a piece of scrap paper.

**STEP FIVE:** You’re ready to write! Start by creating an introduction paragraph. Remember to indent the paragraph! After you indention, the introduction should follow this “formula:”

1. Create a HOOK as your first sentence. A hook can be a question, an interesting detail or fact, or a statement like “Imagine a world...”
2. Write one to two sentences that will connect your hook to your thesis statement.
3. End your introduction with your thesis statement. If you’ve followed these steps correctly, you should be able to copy your thesis statement from your scrap paper.

**STEP SIX:** Create your body paragraphs. Remember to indent! You can have one, large body paragraph, or three, small body paragraphs. Be sure to address each part of your thesis in your body paragraph(s). Follow the “formula” below for writing your body paragraph(s):

1. Introduce an idea from your thesis statement. Be sure to restate information from the prompt. This is a topic sentence.
2. Write a sentence with evidence from the text to support an idea from your thesis. Be sure to introduce your evidence with words like “according to the text,” “the author states,” or “the text states.” Be sure to use quotation marks around your evidence from the text.
3. Following your evidence, write an analysis sentence or sentences. Be sure to PROVE the prompt to me. Show me NEW thinking; don’t just repeat part of your thesis.
4. Repeat 1-3 until you have addressed all the parts of your thesis statement.

**STEP SEVEN:** Create a conclusion paragraph. Remember to indent! Follow the “formula” below for writing your conclusion:

1. Restate your thesis statement in one sentence. This should be the first sentence of your conclusion.
2. Refer back to the author or the title of the text in a second sentence.
3. End your conclusion and paper by creating a sentence that references back to your hook.

**STEP EIGHT:** Read your entire paper at least TWICE. Check for any grammar or spelling mistakes and fix them!

**STEP NINE:** Submit your writing!