

TEXT-DEPENDENT ANALYSIS (TDA) FAQs

KEY POINTS

- ◆ *PEAKS assesses students' understanding of the Alaska ELA and Mathematics Standards.*
- ◆ *Text-Dependent Analysis is part of the PEAKS ELA assessment for students in grades 4-9.*
- ◆ *PEAKS is given in parts: grades 4-5 have three parts; Reading, Reading & TDA, and Writing, while grades 6-9 have two parts; Reading & TDA and Writing.*
- ◆ *TDA for both computer- and paper-based formats will be scored by a team of trained professional reviewers.*

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Text-Dependent Analysis?

Text-Dependent Analysis (TDA) is a type of question on the PEAKS English Language Arts (ELA) assessment where students respond to a writing prompt based on passage(s) they read. Students are required to provide evidence from the passage(s) to support their claims, opinions, and ideas. PEAKS will include TDA starting in 2018 for students in grades 4-9.

What skills will my student need to complete a TDA?

Students demonstrate their reading and writing skills to produce a comprehensive response to the questions. Students use evidence from the passage(s) they read to support their response.

Text-Dependent Analysis requires students to:



Read literary or informational passage(s).

Analyze the passage(s) for supporting evidence.

Write a response using evidence from the passage(s).

Why is TDA now part of the PEAKS ELA assessment?

PEAKS is designed to measure a student's understanding of the *Alaska ELA and Mathematics Standards*. TDA was added to PEAKS to address Alaska's writing standards with a writing sample that connects reading comprehension and writing skills. Alaska's writing standards require students in grades 4-9 to "draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research."

Does the addition of TDA make the ELA assessment longer?

ELA is divided into three parts in grades 4-5 and two parts in grades 6-9 to break up the length of the assessment. To reduce the amount of reading and minimize additional testing time, students use the same reading passage(s) to answer reading questions and complete the TDA. Therefore, students will not be asked to read any additional reading passages as part of the TDA. PEAKS is an untimed assessment and timing may vary depending on grade, but it is estimated that TDA will add 30 minutes to the ELA assessment.

Why isn't TDA a part of the grade 3 assessment?

TDA specifically addresses Alaska's writing standard W-9 that states, "Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research." Writing standard W-9 begins in grade 4 and is assessed after students are taught the skills associated with writing outlined in the Alaska ELA standards.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

<https://education.alaska.gov/>



Is TDA the only writing standard assessed on PEAKS?

TDA was added to allow students the opportunity to demonstrate the writing standard that connects reading for evidence and analyzing the text. The writing part of the ELA assessment assesses other writing standards such as grammar, punctuation, writing for an audience, and organization.

How will students prepare for PEAKS and specifically for TDA?

PEAKS resources are available to prepare students for the computer- or paper-based assessment. The resources are for illustrative purposes and allow students to become familiar with the format of the assessment. They are not intended to reflect the full rigor of Alaska's standards or the questions on PEAKS. PEAKS TDA resources are available on the PEAKS webpage at <https://education.alaska.gov/assessments/peaks>. *Please note, in early 2018, these resources will be updated to include TDA.*

Computer-Based –

- **Student Tutorials** are short web-based videos teaching how to use the embedded test-taking tools and how to answer different item types (multiple choice, matching, etc.).
- **Online Tools Training (OTT)** allows students to practice navigating the test. Tasks include the login process, directions, using the tools and buttons available to answer, flagging questions for review, and submitting answers. OTT provides an authentic simulation of how the real assessment will look and feel.

Paper-Based –

- **Item Samplers** allow students to become familiar with the format of the paper-based assessment. When updated, the printable test booklets and answer documents will allow students to see the layout of the questions and answers, how answers are recorded, and provide examples of the different question types they will see on the assessment.

What resources are available for educators to provide instruction on TDA?

Students should already be familiar with the concepts of TDA. By teaching Alaska's ELA standards, educators are already teaching the reading and writing skills necessary for TDA. There are a variety of resources available on the PEAKS webpage, including the following:

- ◇ The **Writer's Checklist** is a tool for students to consult as they review their writing. It guides students through the writing process and prompts them to check their work as they write.
- ◇ The **TDA Scoring Guidelines** provides educators with a rubric to consistently evaluate student work. Educators should consider creating a simplified, grade-appropriate version of the rubric. This tool would familiarize students with how their TDA response will be scored, as well as allowing them to reflect, analyze, and improve their work.
- ◇ **TDA Educator Resources** is a document encompassing the above resources as well as providing instructional strategies, TDA examples, and additional resources to support instruction.
- ◇ A **training presentation** is available to assist educators in understanding TDA. Topics include, how to help students read for evidence and how to prompt students to use evidence from the text.