

TIDE Writing Strategy: Teacher Handout

TIDE is a practical writing strategy that helps students organize their ideas into clear, well-developed informational or argumentative paragraphs. This structure supports students in planning and drafting with purpose.

TIDE Breakdown

| Step | What It Means | Guiding Question |
|------|----------------------|--|
| T | Topic Sentence | What is the main idea of the paragraph? |
| I | Important Evidence | What fact, quote, or example supports the topic? |
| D | Detailed Explanation | Why does this evidence matter? |
| E | Ending Sentence | How can I wrap up the paragraph clearly? |

Classroom Tips

- Provide explicit modeling with think-alouds
- Gradually guide students toward independent writing with class-wide writing and then partner work.
- Use anchor charts and graphic organizers to reinforce the structure.
- Model each part of the paragraph using think-alouds.
- Encourage students to explain their evidence in their own words.
- Provide sentence starters and color-coded templates for scaffolding.
- Allow oral rehearsal or speech-to-text tools for accessibility.

Differentiation Ideas

- For emerging writers: Use sticky notes for each part of TIDE and rearrange them before drafting.
- For advanced writers: Add a second (or third) round of important evidence and detailed explanation (TIDIDE or TIDIDIDE).
- For visual learners: Use photo prompts or short videos to inspire writing.
- For independent practice: Let students choose familiar topics and complete a TIDE organizer before writing.

Sample TIDE Paragraph (Argumentative)

Middle school students should get more breaks during the day. Research shows that students focus better after taking short brain breaks. When kids have time to move or relax, they come back to class more ready to learn. This helps them stay on task and do better academically. This is why longer or more frequent breaks would benefit students.