TIDE

Background and Implementation
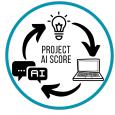
Understanding the TIDE Strategy

The TIDE **framework** is a strategy for **structuring informational/expository paragraphs**.

- T: Topic Sentence
- I: Important Evidence
- D: Detailed Explanation
- E: Ending Sentence
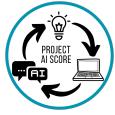
Understanding the TIDE Strategy

This strategy….

Supports: Planning & Drafting

Applies To: Informational Writing

Grade Levels: Grades 3–8

Purpose and Effectiveness

What it Helps Students Do:

- Structure informational paragraphs clearly and effectively
- Organize their ideas into manageable parts
- Build confidence and independence in writing
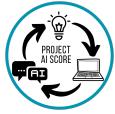
Purpose and Effectiveness

Why it's Effective:

- Provides an explicit and tactile process that helps students develop their individual **planning habits** for writing.
- Demonstrates positive outcomes across diverse learners, including students with learning differences.

Step-by-Step

T – Topic Sentence

Step	Action	Guiding Question
T	State the main idea of the paragraph	"What is the main idea of this paragraph?"
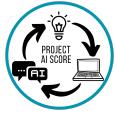
I – Important Evidence

Step	Action	Guiding Question
T	State the main idea of the paragraph	"What is the main idea of this paragraph?"
I	**Provide a reason or fact that supports the topic sentence**	**"What is one important reason or fact that supports my topic?"**

WRITE

D – Detailed Explanation

| Step	Action	Guiding Question
T	State the main idea of the paragraph	"What is the main idea of this paragraph?"
I	Provide a reason or fact that supports the topic sentence	"What is one important reason or fact that supports my topic?"
D	**Explain or provide an example of how the evidence supports the topic**	**"How can I explain or give an example of this reason?"**

WRITE

E – Ending Sentence

Step	Action	Guiding Question
T	State the main idea of the paragraph	"What is the main idea of this paragraph?"
I	Provide a reason or fact that supports the topic sentence	"What is one important reason or fact that supports my topic?".
D	Explain or provide an example of how the evidence supports the topic	"How can I explain or give an example of this reason?"
E	**Wrap up or restate the main idea of the paragraph**	**"How can I wrap up or restate the main idea?"**
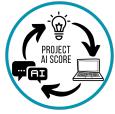
Implementation Tips

Start with a Think-Aloud

- Model the strategy by writing a sample paragraph using TIDE and verbally explain how and why you used each part of TIDE to write the paragraph
- This helps students understand the "why" behind each part, not just the "what"
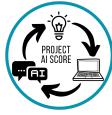
Implementation Tips

Use Color-Coding and Visuals

- Provide a color-coded graphic organizer and/or have students use highlighters to mark each section (T, I, D, E) of their writing
- This visual reinforcement solidifies the structure and purpose of each component of TIDE
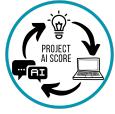
# More Implementation Tips

Focus on the "D" Step

- The **Detailed Explanation** is often the hardest part for students
- Spend extra time modeling this step and provide sentence starters like, "This shows that..." to guide their thinking
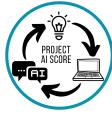
More Implementation Tips

Scaffold with Practice

- Begin with whole-class guided practice, then move to partner work, and finally provide opportunities for independent practice
- Gradually reduce instructions as students practice and internalize the process

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