



# TIQA

## Best Practices and Adaptations



# Understanding the TIQA Strategy

TIQA is a **step-by-step process** for **writing well-structured paragraphs** that include a **clear topic sentence, relevant textual evidence, and a thoughtful analysis.**

- **T:** Topic Sentence
- **I:** Introduce Evidence
- **Q:** Quote or Paraphrase
- **A:** Analyze



# Understanding the TIQA Strategy

This strategy...

**Supports:** Drafting & Revising

**Applies To:** Informational writing, literary analysis,  
constructed responses

**Grade Levels:** Grades 6–12



# Suggestions for Implementation

- Teach each step explicitly and sequentially.
  - Since the steps are closely connected, work through the entire process each time you provide an example. Allow students to help with some steps as they become more confident.
- Use consistent language for each step.
  - Reinforce the terms Topic, Introduce, Quote, and Analyze so that students internalize the TIQA strategy.
- Model how to correctly introduce a source.
  - Show how to name the author, title, or organization before a quote (e.g., “According to National Geographic...”).



# Suggestions for Implementation

- Provide sample sentence starters for each step.
  - These are especially helpful for students who struggle with writing or organizing their thoughts.
- Use color-coding or visual cues.
  - Highlight each part of a model paragraph in a different color (blue for topic sentence, yellow for quotes, etc.) to visualize the paragraph structure
- Practice with short, accessible texts.
  - Provide familiar or high-interest materials for students to pull examples from. This can help students to focus on the writing process, not reading comprehension.
- Give feedback on each part of TIQA.
  - Comment specifically on how well students introduced the source, selected evidence, or explained it.



# Common Pitfalls to Avoid

**Don't skip the "Introduce" step.** Jumping straight into a quote without context confuses readers and weakens credibility.

**Don't let students use quotes without analysis.** A quote alone doesn't show understanding. Students must explain its meaning and relevance in the paragraph.

**Don't allow vague or off-topic evidence.** Teach students to choose quotes that clearly support their topic sentence.

**Don't assume students know how to analyze.** Analysis is often the hardest part, so model it often and provide guided practice.





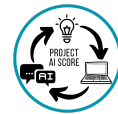
# Common Pitfalls to Avoid

**Don't forget to differentiate.** Some students may need to practice with cloze paragraphs, oral rehearsals, or visual supports to succeed.

**Don't rush the modeling step.** Think aloud when you're sharing how you complete each step. Slow your own thinking so you can verbalize it to students.

**Don't treat TIQA as a fill-in-the-blank formula.** Encourage flexible, thoughtful writing rather than robotic responses.

# Troubleshooting



Step	Issue/Challenge	What to Do
<b>Topic</b>	Students write an answer that is too vague to sustain a strong paragraph	Ask the student to be more specific. Remind students that a strong topic provides the foundation for the whole paragraph.
<b>Introduction</b>	Students give credit to a text's author, rather than a speaker or character.	Re-read the quote and ask, "Who said this?" Discuss with students the reasons we sometimes give credit to the character instead of the author.
<b>Quote</b>	Students select evidence that does not support the topic.	Use think-alouds to analyze strong paragraph examples, emphasizing the need to choose quotes that directly support the topic.
<b>Analysis</b>	Students rephrase the quote rather than analyze it.	Provide sentence starters and model using think-alouds.





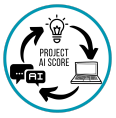
# Adapting TIQA for ALL Learners

- Use a graphic organizer with the letters TIQA to help students follow the strategy's steps.
- Color-code the steps and have students highlight the individual parts of their paragraphs.
- Allow students to give oral responses before writing to help them talk through their ideas.
- Provide a list of synonyms for the word "said" to help students with the "Introduce" step.



# Adapting TIQA for ALL Learners

- Provide students with high-interest texts or videos to use as evidence. (If using videos, be sure to turn on closed captioning and model how to go back and find a quote.)
- For students who have mastered the basic TIQA structure, introduce **TIQATIQA**, where students include and analyze two pieces of evidence within one paragraph.



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