

October 11, 2018

To Whom it May Concern,

I would first like to apologize for any inconvenience you've experienced this week with your child's homework. Believe me when I say it wasn't supposed to be a negative experience. The last week and a half we spent time in class going step by step over a Text Dependent Analysis (TDA) response. A TDA is reading a passage and responding to a prompt using evidence from the text in the writing. At SRU, TDAs have been a struggle for all students. Last year, the students were exposed to it for the first time, so it should be a review to them. However, many students have struggled with their homework.

The purpose of going step by step through the TDA last week was to provide the students with a review of the material, but to also give them a concrete example to use throughout the year. Students were told in class to take this resource home to use as a guide. After asking how many students took it home, I had a total of five in the entire fifth grade. Those five students did the homework correctly. Many other students who paid attention, but didn't take the example home completed the homework sections effectively as well. On the other hand, the students who struggled to pay attention over the last week and a half and those who didn't take the resource home, didn't complete the required sections correctly.

This is the first TDA students have completed on their own, and it is the hardest type of writing we will do this year. I am asking parents and family at home to be patient and supportive. I promise, it will get better! Again, I apologize for any meltdowns or frustrations; those shouldn't happen. Students have what they need to be successful, but many are not choosing to utilize those options on their own. This is all part of the fifth grade growing process. The students are the bridge between school and home, so if they don't listen, ask questions, or seek help, the parents are going to struggle as well. I am including the example we did in class with this letter. Please keep it at home in a place where it can be utilized throughout the year. If you have any further questions, please let me know. Also, please check my website for any additional resources. Thank you.

Have a good night,

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