English I EOCEP TDA Tips Based on Information from SCDE

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- The TDA constitutes 16 points or roughly 22% of the student's overall English 1 EOCEP score. The TDA is roughly 22% of the student's score because the English 1 EOCEP Test Blueprint allows for a range in the number of items included for each cognitive domain. You can access the EOCEP English 1 Test Blueprint here.

- Students may encounter 1 or 2 passages in the TDA.

- The TDA assessment is not timed.

- The TDA word count limit is 5,000 characters. The online TDA test screen that students will work in during the test has a running word count on the bottom left hand corner of the screen.

- Students should NOT be encouraged to include a title on their TDA written response. Including a title will not help a student's score and it will use up their word count.

- Students will have access to scratch paper throughout the assessment.

- "I" statements used by students in their TDA response when making connections/analyzing the text are permissible. The scored TDA student papers from SCDE show evidence of students receiving scores of three and four when using these statements to begin a sentence during the analysis portion of their response. Students will need to be instructed to stick to the topic and not to overuse or go too far with the use of "I" statements.

- A student's response must contain a thorough/clear analysis based on **explicit and implicit meanings** from the text(s) to score a 3 or 4 on the assessment**.** Test scorers look first for the **analysis and original thought** included in a student response.

- Students should be taught to indent. (They can either use the tab key or the spacebar.) Even though indenting uses some of the allotted characters, it helps to show organization.

- Changes have been made to the Online Training Tools to which students have access during the TDA portion of SC Ready. Teachers should view the revised Online Training Tools to see what tools have been removed.

- Students should be given multiple opportunities to view and practice completing technology enhanced test items in the SCDE Online Training Tools. Students should also be exposed to the online TDA format within the Online Training Tools.

- Teachers should begin preparing students for both the multiple choice and TDA portions of the test by embedding test preparation when applicable throughout the school year. Teachers should utilize the district provided 4 week TDA Unit for their grade level prior to testing.

- The bulk of TDA test preparation should first take place during reading instructional time as the demands of the assessment pertain largely to reading comprehension and the student's ability to think deeply about the text and pinpoint specific evidence in the text to support their thinking.

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