

TIP the Prompt Protocol

TIP a prompt by finding the **T**ask, **I**ndicators needed, and **P**oints that could made. Here is an example that clarifies what **TIP** means. If students use this strategy during testing, it can help students read with a purpose in mind and quickly focus their writing. Students may do the steps with boxing (T), underlining (I), and listing(P). This sample shows the steps with color coding for additional clarity.

PROMPT: Construct a **multi-paragraph** written response in which you **analyze the development of similar central ideas in both passages**. In your analysis consider **how the central ideas are developed through specific details**. Your response must be **based on ideas and information that can be found in the passages**.

Manage your time carefully so that you can:

- review the passages;
- plan your response;
- write your response;
- revise and edit your response.

Be sure to:

- include an introduction**;
- use evidence from the passages to support your explanations**;
- avoid overly relying on one passage**; and
- include a conclusion**.

POINTS

- Passages one and two have similar central ideas.
- The central idea of passage one is developed through the structure of the passage and the events detailed.
- The central idea of passage two is developed through the structure of the passage and the individuals detailed.

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TIP A PROMPT EXPLANATION

The “**T**” is the main **TASK** asked for in the prompt.

T-analyze the development of similar central ideas in both passages

The “**I**” stands for the **INDICATORS** needed by the task. There are *content indicators* and *format indicators*. These become a check list for the students to be sure that all are included in their answers.

I-Content Indicators:

__how the central ideas are developed through specific details

I-Format Indicators:

__based on the passages

__multiple paragraphs

__introduction

__evidence from passages to support explanations (body paragraphs)

__evidence from both passages

__conclusion

The “**P**” is the list of **POINTS** that could be made in an essay that is focused on the Task and Content Indicators. The idea is to write what comes to mind from the passages as a place to start and to focus evidence finding. These points become the main points used in each body paragraph.

P-Passages one and two have similar central ideas.

P-The central idea of passage one is developed through the structure of the passage and the events detailed.

P-The central idea of passage two is developed through the structure of the passage and the individuals detailed.