PSSA TDA Student Checklist

Name _____ Date _____

How your TDA is scored

One holistic score from **1 to 4**, the same guideline in grades 4–8. The biggest difference between score points is the analysis:

Score	Analysis	Evidence
4	In-depth	Substantial, accurate, direct
3	Clear	Sufficient, accurate, direct
2	Weak or inconsistent	Vague
1	Insufficient or none	Insufficient

Summary is not analysis

An essay that tells **what happens** in the text can sit at a 2 even with good quotes. Explain **how or why**.

Don't copy the passage. A response made solely or almost solely of copied text can't be scored.

Task and analysis

- [ ] I answered **every** part of the prompt.
- [ ] I made inferences from what the text says directly **and** what it suggests.
- [ ] After each piece of evidence, I explained how or why it supports my point.
- [ ] My essay leads to a conclusion about the text, not a retelling of it.

Evidence

- [ ] I referred to the text directly and accurately, with quotes or specific details.
- [ ] I used enough evidence to support each paragraph.

Organization and language

- [ ] My essay has a clear introduction, body and conclusion.
- [ ] I used transitions to connect my ideas.
- [ ] My words are precise, and I proofread for errors.

Plan it: evidence, then explanation

Evidence (quote or detail, with paragraph number)	**How or why it supports my point**

During the test you can open the scoring guidelines from the Help menu, and the Writer's Checklist reminds you to plan, focus and proofread. Student summary based on PDE's PSSA TDA Scoring Guidelines; not an official PDE document.