

Text-Based Response (Central Idea)

This is a 2-3 paragraph response. Use the guide to help organize your writing.

- I. **Introductory Paragraph:** This paragraph is only about 2-3 sentences long.
 - Step 1: Topic Sentence: A general statement about the central idea that interests the reader in the topic.
(If you struggle with this step, go right to step 2).
 - Step 2: Introduce the **central idea**. (Remember - it should be a general statement, not specific to the text yet.)
(Example of a proper central idea statement: *In order to be successful, a person must overcome some obstacles along the way.*)
 - Step 3: Identify the **title** and **author** of the text and the **ONE** literary element that the author uses to convey (prove) the central idea.
(If it doesn't have a title, just use the phrase, *In the text*).
(If you can't find the author, use *the author*).

- II. **Supporting Paragraph:** This is where you **PROVE** how this literary element supports the central idea. You need 2-3 examples of this **one** literary element to prove your point.
 - Step 1: Topic Sentence: Rewrite/**reword your central idea**. Now you can be more specific to your text.
(Example: *In the text by Richard E. Byrd, Byrd was able to survive his time in Antarctica, but only after pushing through some harsh conditions.*)
 - Step 2: First **example** of your literary element **to support** your **central idea**. Include either the exact quote or paraphrase the example.
(Don't forget to **cite your information!**)
 - Step 3: Provide an explanation/analysis of your text-based example and **how it proves the central idea** of the text.
(Example: *This shows...*)
 - Step 4: You must repeat steps 2 & 3 so that you have provided 2 – 3 examples of how the element/technique/device supports the central idea.
 - Step 5: Provide a concluding sentence.

- III. **Concluding Paragraph:**
 - Step 1: Restate your central idea.
 - Step 2: Summarize the main points of your analysis. (NO new information)