

Critical Concepts 7.9A Non-Fiction Writing Lesson Plans

Turning Graphic Organizers into Writing Responses

Each of the sample responses models turning our graphic organizers into complete paragraph responses

Prompt:

Choose a topic from your paired texts. Write a well-developed paragraph explaining how the authors present key information differently. Include:

1. The topic of the texts.
2. How each author emphasizes evidence.
3. How each author interprets facts.
4. Compare and contrast their presentations to show how each shapes your understanding of the topic.

Topic

Evidence & emphasis

Author 1 Interpretation of facts

Author 2 Evidence & emphasis

Author 2 Interpretation of facts

Comparison/Contrast and Synthesis

I Do – Teacher Model

Texts: *Harry Potter Instilled a Love of Reading* – Randy Schultz, *It's More About Movies Than the Books* – Jack Wilder Versteg

The paired texts explore how Harry Potter influences youth reading habits. Schultz emphasizes evidence from surveys and testimonials, showing that children who read Harry Potter develop stronger reading habits. He interprets these facts to suggest that the books themselves are the key motivator for literacy. Versteg, however, emphasizes movie popularity, citing box office numbers and viewership statistics. He interprets the facts to propose that films, rather than books, are driving engagement with the Harry Potter story. Together, these presentations show that the topic can be understood from multiple perspectives: one highlighting the literary impact and the other highlighting the cultural influence of adaptations.

We Do – Guided Practice

Texts: *Steve Jobs Biography* – biography.com, *Stanford Commencement Speech* – Steve Jobs

Both texts focus on Steve Jobs' life and influence. The biography emphasizes chronological career achievements, highlighting his innovations and leadership. The author interprets these facts to present Jobs as a visionary leader in technology. In contrast, the Stanford speech

emphasizes anecdotes about failure and success, illustrating life lessons rather than achievements alone. Jobs interprets these facts to inspire graduates, framing his story as guidance for decision-making and perseverance. Comparing the two, the biography provides factual context and accomplishments, while the speech uses interpretation to motivate and teach, showing how emphasis shapes the reader's understanding of Jobs' legacy.

You Do with Partner – Collaborative Practice

Texts: *Can a Video Game Lead to Murder* – Rebecca Lang, *The Effects of Violent Video Games* – Brad J. Bushman

The paired texts examine the effects of violent video games on behavior. Lang emphasizes anecdotal incidents of violence linked to gaming, suggesting a potential causal relationship. She interprets these incidents to propose that violent games may influence extreme behavior. Bushman emphasizes experimental studies and meta-analyses, showing measurable effects but also limitations. He interprets the evidence to suggest that violent games may influence behavior slightly but are not directly responsible for violent acts. Together, the texts show different approaches to the same topic: one using dramatic examples to highlight potential risks, and the other relying on research data to provide measured conclusions.

You Do Independently – Independent Practice

Texts: *iPads in Classroom Change Education* – Billy Baker, *Apple for the Teacher: Are iPads the Future in Class?* – David Andrews

The texts examine the role of iPads in education. Baker emphasizes classroom studies and student performance data, showing that iPads improve engagement and learning outcomes. He interprets these facts to suggest that iPads are valuable educational tools when integrated properly. Andrews emphasizes teacher interviews and adoption statistics, showing practical challenges and potential for the future. He interprets these facts to propose that iPads are promising but require proper implementation. Together, the authors provide a balanced view: one focuses on measurable classroom benefits, and the other highlights broader systemic considerations, helping readers understand both practical and educational implications.