

Critical Concepts 8.1A 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 one of the nonfiction texts. What does the text say explicitly, and what inference can you make? Cite the **strongest textual evidence** to support your analysis, and explain why this evidence is most powerful.

1. **Analysis/Claim**
2. **Text evidence** (direct quote)
3. **Explanation of how evidence supports the analysis**
4. **Closing insight**

I Do – *The Story of My Life* by Helen Keller

The text explicitly states that the most important day in Keller's life was when her teacher arrived, and I can infer that this was because it gave her access to language and the world. Keller writes, "*The most important day I remember in all my life is the one on which my teacher came to me.*" She also explains, "*My teacher spelled into my hand the word 'doll,' and suddenly I knew that words could name things.*" These two quotes together show that meeting her teacher mattered not just as an event, but because it marked the moment her mind opened to knowledge. This evidence is strongest because it proves that Keller's identity and future depended on learning language.

We Do – *Influx from the Orient* by Eleanor Roosevelt

The text explicitly says that immigration from the Orient had a major impact on America, and I can infer that Roosevelt believed diversity was one of the country's greatest strengths. She writes, "*Our nation has benefited in countless ways from the talents and contributions of these immigrants.*" She also states, "*Without the mixture of cultures and traditions, America would not have the rich diversity it enjoys today.*" These quotes show that Roosevelt saw immigrants as shaping the very identity of the nation, not just adding to its economy or population. The strongest evidence highlights that diversity is central to what it means to be American.

You Do with Partner – *Eulogy for John F. Kennedy*

The text explicitly says that Kennedy's life was cut short, and I can infer that the eulogy presents him as a symbol of freedom and sacrifice. The speaker says, "*He gave the world his*

love of freedom and paid for it with his life." Another line adds, "He believed that liberty was the right of every human being." Together, these quotes show that Kennedy is remembered not just for dying, but for dedicating his life to the principle of liberty. The strongest evidence turns his personal loss into a universal message of freedom.

You Do Independently – Elizabeth I's Farewell Speech

Elizabeth explicitly says she worked for her people's well-being, and I can infer that she wanted to be remembered as a selfless and loyal ruler. She states, "There will never queen sit in my seat with more zeal to my country..." She also insists, "I never thought to prefer my private profit before the public good." These lines show that Elizabeth wanted her audience to see her as sacrificing her personal gain for the benefit of her people. The strongest evidence emphasizes her legacy of loyalty, ensuring her reign would be remembered with respect.