

## Critical Concepts 8.6A Non-Fiction Writing Lesson Plans

### Turning Graphic Organizers into Writing Responses

After students complete their organizers, model how to turn it into a short paragraph.

#### Prompt:

Choose one nonfiction text you read. Write a paragraph explaining:

- What the author's point of view or purpose is.
- How the author supports that view with evidence.
- How the author acknowledges and responds to a conflicting viewpoint.

#### Author's POV or purpose

#### Evidence supporting POV + acknowledgement

#### How the author responds and why it makes the argument effective

#### I Do (Teacher Model Response) – *Education Experts Disagree on Importance of School Class Size*

In this article, the author's purpose is to show that class size matters, but it is not the only factor in education. The author supports this view by citing research that smaller classes help in early grades and allow teachers to give more individual attention. At the same time, the author acknowledges that critics argue reducing class size is expensive and has limited long-term impact. The author responds by suggesting class size should be considered alongside other strategies, which makes the argument balanced and more convincing.

#### We Do (Class Response) – *Affirmative Action: 25 Years of Controversy*

The authors' point of view is that affirmative action remains controversial but necessary. They support this by explaining that it promotes diversity and opportunities for underrepresented groups. They also acknowledge opponents who argue it is unfair and amounts to reverse discrimination. The authors respond by arguing the benefits of equal opportunity outweigh criticisms, which strengthens their case for its continuation.

#### You Do with Partner (Collaborative Response) – *Schools Try to Draw the Line for Wired Kids*

The author's point of view is that schools struggle to balance the rules for devices with parents' convenience. The article supports this by showing how some schools ban devices while others allow limited use. The author acknowledges parents' viewpoint that phones make communication easier but responds that constant phone use disrupts learning. This shows the complexity of the debate and why schools must find a middle ground.

#### You Do Independently (Student Response) – *The Problem We All Live With*

In this text, the author's purpose is to highlight the importance of school integration. The author supports this by describing the bravery of Ruby Bridges and the national impact of her actions. The author acknowledges those who opposed integration, but responds by showing the injustice of segregation and the need for equality. This strengthens the message that integration was necessary for civil rights progress.