

Context – Text Evidence (TE) – **Commentary** Practice

“The ability to communicate effectively face to face is lacking by many teens” (Smith).

Before writing the commentary, pause and think about:

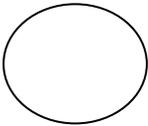
What does the passage (literally) say?

What can you infer from the passage? Deeper meaning?

What do you think this passage shows about the bigger story or idea?

Then ponder these questions, taking notes in the margins of your packet:

What does your TE mean?



- What does the TE show about your topic/thesis/topic sentence?
- What does the TE show about the character’s statements/thinking?
- In what way does this TE affect society?
- What is the hidden implication that may not be caught by the reader?
- What conclusions can you make?

Why is your TE significant (why should the reader care)?



- Why can you use your TE to infer significance about the topic?
- Why can you use your TE to show the significance of society?
- Why does the TE grab your attention?
- Why does your TE connect to your Topic Sentence (TS) or thesis?
- Why should the reader of your response care?

How does your TE prove your TS or thesis?



- How does a section or word from your TE support your TS or thesis?
- How do you argue your point of view rather than that of the other POV?
- How are specific words or phrases used to convey your theme/thesis/opinion?

It is important to make your commentary (analysis) thoughtful and full because it is where you share your thoughts. You may understand a section of a novel, but if you cannot write down how you understand that section, I will not know you understand.

Still having trouble? Pretend you and I are talking. You are sharing your passage and why you chose it. Write down our conversation. Now you have the What, Why, and How to put into your commentary. Don’t want to write it? Record yourself talking aloud. Sound silly? Get over it. If it is the difference between demonstrating mastery and not, it is a good use of your time. (And don’t worry...after enough practice, you will no longer find a need to record your aloud thinking.)