**3C’s- An Approach to Writing**

Why do I need to learn the 3C’s writing strategy?

How can 3C’s help me become a better writer?

When will I ever really use 3C’s?

OK…(*I’m convinced*); let’s learn how to write using 3C’s!!!

The situation is set: You encounter a question or prompt that requires an evidence-based

response… (*this will happen more often than you think*)

First- underline the KEY words in the question, so you are certain you answer the question you

are being asked

Second- dig into your information source (text) to find the best answer to your question AND

the **BEST** quote to backup, or support, your answer

Next- follow the FORMAT below as you put YOUR work into writing *(plug-in your info.)*

NOW- READ OVER IT!!! Don’t submit a response without proofreading- be sure you used 3rd

person, look for words you may have left out, grammar errors, grade- appropriate

vocabulary, flow of ideas…

**CLAIM:** Restate the key words from the question *(you underlined them)*

**ONE**

**sentence**

S

AND add your answer to that question.

**CITE:** (introduce the quote in your words)

**ONE**

**sentence**

S

“ “

(text reference ).

**CLARIFY:** Add **3-5 sentences** of explanation to help the reader of your response

understand your thinking. Explain what things you know about the text

that helped you make the connection between the text you cited (look

at the quote) and your answer. **Don’t just repeat** the same words!!!

**FINAL PRODUCT= 3C’s response,** or a 5-7 sentence paragraph that provides a

focused, well-written answer to your question

**Question: How does James McBride characterize his mother? *(based on The Color of Water)***

**Claim:** James McBride characterizes his mother as unconventional. *(that adjective means quirky)*

**Cite:**  When he describes his mother riding the bicycle in chapter 2, McBride says,” Her

oddness, her complete non- awareness of what the world thought of her… She saw none

of it ” (3).

**Clarify:** While he is initially embarrassed by his mother’s “different” approach to life, one can quickly see that his view of her changes as he matures. He comes to realize that it is her boldness and willingness to break from the norm that shape both him and his siblings into the successful people they become. Through the relaxed, reflective tone McBride uses in his honest portrayal of both his mother and himself, he creates a sympathetic character that draws readers into his story. As a young boy, his desire to fit in with those around him is only natural. The descriptions of her in the beginning of the book show how her behavior made him uncomfortable and made ‘fitting in” practically impossible.

**Is Hassan a dynamic or static character? (based on *The Kite Runner)***

In *The Kite Runner,* Hassan is a static character because his peaceful disposition remains the same throughout the novel. He is exceptionally gentle and kind as Amir notes in Chapter 2: “Hassan was true to his nature: He was incapable of hurting anyone”(10). As Amir considers the opportunity to correct the mistakes of his past, his description of Hassan’s humility and meekness indicate that Amir had perhaps taken advantage of this thoughtful, selfless boy at some time in the past.

TRY IT: How is the Beast characterized in the beginning of *Beauty and the Beast*?

*(choose another fairy tale if you don’t know this one!)*

**KEEP THIS IN YOUR ELA BINDER**

**THIS IS THE FORMAT WE WILL USE FOR**

**TEXT-BASED RESPONSES THIS YEAR**

*\*dialectical journals are typically the ONLY 1st person writing we do in 8th grade ELA*