

Answers

EMBEDDED ASSESSMENT 1: Writing a Hero's Journey Narrative

ACTIVITY 1.9	Previewing Embedded Assessment 2 and the Definition Essay
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Learning Targets

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- Reflect on previous learning and make connections to new learning.
- Identify and analyze the skills and knowledge necessary to be successful in completing Embedded Assessment 2.

QHT (Learning Strategy)**Definition**

Expanding prior knowledge of vocabulary words by marking words with a Q, H, or T (Q signals words students do not know; H signals words students have heard and might be able to identify; T signals words students know well enough to teach to their peers)

Purpose

To allow students to build on their prior knowledge of words, to provide a forum for peer teaching and learning of new words, and to serve as a prereading exercise to aid in comprehension

Close Reading (Learning Strategy)**Definition**

Accessing small chunks of text to read, reread, mark, and annotate key passages, word-for-word, sentence-by-sentence, and line-by-line

Purpose

To develop comprehensive understanding by engaging in one or more focused readings of a text

Paraphrasing (Learning Strategy)**Definition**

Restating in one's own words the essential information expressed in a text, whether it be narration, dialogue, or informational text

Purpose

To encourage and facilitate comprehension of challenging text.

Graphic Organizer (Learning Strategy)**Definition**

Using a visual representation for the organization of information from the text

Purpose

To facilitate increased comprehension and discussion

Learning Strategies

[QHT](#), [Close Reading](#), [Paraphrasing](#), [Graphic Organizer](#)

Making Connections

In the first part of this unit, you learned about the archetype of the Hero's Journey, and you wrote your own illustrated narrative depicting a protagonist who makes a heroic journey. In this half of the unit, you will continue thinking about heroism and what makes a hero; your work will culminate in an essay in which you create your definition of a hero.

Essential Questions

Reflect on your understanding of Essential Question 1: How has your understanding of the Hero's Journey changed over the course of this unit? Then, respond to Essential Question 2, which will be the focus of the rest of the unit: How does the Hero's Journey archetype appear in stories throughout time?

Developing Vocabulary

Academic Vocabulary

It is important to be precise and **concise** in writing and speaking. To be **concise** is to be brief and to the point. **Conciseness** is expressing a great deal in just a few words.

Re-sort the vocabulary from the first half of the unit, using the QHT strategy. Compare the new sort with your original sort. How has your understanding changed? Select one word and write a [concise](#) statement about how your understanding of the word has changed over the course of this unit.

Unpacking Embedded Assessment 2

Read the assignment for Embedded Assessment 2 closely to identify and analyze the components of the assignment.

Think about people who deserve status as a hero from the past, from the present, from life, and from literature. What defines a hero? Write a multi-paragraph essay that develops your definition of heroism. Be sure to use strategies of definition (function, example, and negation) to guide your writing.

Using the assignment and the Scoring Guide, work with your class to analyze the prompt and create a graphic organizer to use as a visual reminder of the required concepts (what you need to know) and skills (what you need to do). Copy the graphic organizer in your Reader/Writer Notebook.

After each activity, use this graphic to guide reflection about what you have learned and what you still need to learn in order to be successful on the Embedded Assessment.

Preparing for Explanatory Writing

1. How are explanatory and narrative writing similar? How are they different? List ideas below, and then create a graphic organizer on separate paper to show your thinking.

Similarities	Differences

Preparing for Explanatory Writing

Independent Reading Link: Read and Research

Continue your exploration of the *heroes* theme by choosing a fiction or nonfiction text about a historical or modern hero for your independent reading. Research the author of the text to find out why they might have chosen to write about this particular hero.

2. You are often asked to define vocabulary terms and to explain your understanding of what something means. Abstract concepts, such as heroism, can also be defined. Practice thinking about how to define an abstract concept by working in a small group or with a partner to develop a list of words that describe each of the concepts below.

- freedom
- responsibility
- sacrifice
- friendship

Check Your Understanding

Working with the same partner or group, write a brief paragraph defining one of the abstract concepts listed above. Make sure the paragraph demonstrates your understanding of the concept.

[ACTIVITY 1.10: The Nuance of Tone](#)

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