**The Claim, Cite, Clarify Writing Process**

**Claim –** Your answer/ response to the question or prompt

**Cite –** The evidence / quote you use to back up your opinion

**Clarify –** Explanation of how your evidence is linked to and supports your claim.

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**\* Claim** - One sentence that states what is to be proven. It is your answer to a question or your response to a writing prompt.

* It is a good practice to identify the title of the work and the author as part of your claim.

EXAMPLE:

Prompt: How is Katniss’s character established through indirect characterization?

Make sure you break down the question or prompt so that you are clear about what you are trying to prove. In this example, do you know what indirect characterization is?

A possible claim for this prompt might look like the following:

In Suzanne Collins’s novel *The Hunger Games*, Katniss is established as self sacrificing through indirect characterization.

**\* Cite –**

Step 1: Select a quote that you want to use from a source. You may use ellipsis to quote the portion of the quote that you need, particularly if the quote is long.

Step 2: Introduce the quote using details from the context of the quote:

a) Who stated it? b) Where is it stated? (not the page number)

c) What is happening at the time it is stated?

Format, punctuation, and MLA in the sentence:

a) subject – verb, “quote” (Collins 11).

In chapter two after Prim’s name is called, Katniss says, “I volunteer as tribute” (Collins 11).

b) subject – verb that “quote” (Collins 11).

In chapter two Katniss says that she will “volunteer as tribute” after Prim’s name is called (Collins 11).

c) complete sentence: “quote” (Collins 11).

Immediately after Prim’s name is called at the reaping in Chapter two, Katniss make a bold statement: “I volunteer as tribute” (Collins 11).

**Clarify** –

Step 1: Underline, circle, or highlight important words/ phrases (no more than three words) of your quote.

Step 2: List those words or phrases.

Step 3: Next to each word, briefly write down the importance of the item by answering the following questions:

a) What significance does this word/ phrase have to proving your claim?

b) What other information (background info, explanation of situation, info about character, etc.) will help better understand this quote?

c) What is better understood about your claim because of this word/ phrase?

Step 4: Now, combine the information from Step 3 into separate sentences.

DO NOT USE any of the following words or phrases in your clarification:

I believe I think in my opinion you this quote thing it

EXAMPLE:

Step 1: Immediately after Prim’s name is called at the reaping in Chapter two, Katniss, after pushing Prim behind her, makes a bold statement: “I volunteer as tribute” (Collins 11).

Step 2 & 3:

Volunteer – a choice to participate on her sister’s behalf; she knows she could die as a result

Tribute – payment of a child’s life to the state

Step 4: The action of volunteering to take the place of her twelve year old sister, Prim, at the reaping illustrates Katniss’s willingness to act sacrificially for others. Collins does not merely state this aspect of Katniss’s character but uses indirect characterization through the actions of Katniss to show the reader this admirable character trait.

**Claim, Cite, Clarify put all together:**

In Suzanne Collins’s novel *The Hunger Games*, Katniss is established as sacrificial through the use of indirect characterization. Immediately after Prim’s name is called at the reaping in Chapter two, Katniss, after pushing Prim behind her, makes a bold statement: “I volunteer as tribute” (Collins 11). This action of volunteering to take the place of her twelve year old sister at the reaping illustrates Katniss’s willingness to act sacrificially for others. Collins does not merely state this aspect of Katniss’s character but uses indirect characterization seen through the actions of Katniss to show the reader one of her many admirable character traits.