

Figure 4.8: Student Directions for Creating and Evaluating a Claim

Creating a Claim

Directions: Follow the steps to develop an original claim about the text. Remember, a claim is a statement or an argument that you believe to be true and will try to prove with explicit evidence from the text.

1. Start a new page in your Notebook and title it “Creating a Claim.”
2. Based on your discoveries from annotating the text and engaging in the Question Formulation Technique activity, write five discoveries you have made about the text.
3. On your Notebook page, jot down any ideas you have about how these separate discoveries connect to each other and work together to create meaning.
4. In your Notebook, write what theory you have based on the relationships you’ve noticed among these discoveries.
5. In your Notebook, write what element of the text this theory focuses on: character, conflict, or writer’s craft.
6. In your Notebook, write the following and complete the sentence: So far, my claim about the text is _____.
7. In your Notebook, write what pieces of evidence you can use to develop your claim.

Evaluating a Claim

Is your claim EPIC?

Engaging: Is the working claim engaging? Does your claim spark curiosity and wonder, both for you and in other readers?

Provable: Is the working claim provable? Do your annotations provide at least two pieces of evidence to support your claim?

Insightful: Is the working claim insightful? Does your claim invite readers to go below the surface and think more deeply about the text? In other words, what is the text really saying?

Clearly stated: Is the working claim clearly stated? Is the wording of the claim concise and understandable?