

Student Example:
Formative Assessment on “The Idea of America” by Nikole Hannah-Jones

Black people being tortured without rights became one of the main contributors of the building of America. They built equal rights and a future for the ones not accepted. They worked hard for us, for equity. People got killed fighting for these rights, they were selfless and they just wanted a better future for the others in the same situation as them. She states “My father, one of those many black Americans who answered the call, knew what it would take me years to understand: that the year 1619 is as important to the American story as 1776.” At the beginning she tells a story about her father who was a black man who wanted to be treated as an American in a country full of racism and slavery. Her father still found a way to raise the American flag with honor since he believed he contributed to the building of America. She talks about related history statements and how black people contributed to America. She expresses her feelings in this article, she expresses her concerns about how black people should be praised more because of their contribution to America. In my quote I presented how she connects both sides of her ideas together; her dad being proud to be a black man in America since his ancestors made this country what it is. Black people have served this country more than anyone and even to this day they are still fighting for equality and for racism to stop. They have built America for decades and America wouldn't be the same without them.

The author uses stylistic/rhetorical methods. It's important because she makes the readers feel as though they have a connection with the writer and have the same emotions that the author shows through the text. Well she tries to connect the reader with the writer because she proceeds to give context on how her father was born into sharecropping and also says her father joined the military to be accepted as an American but it didn't help him be accepted. “My dad was born into a family of sharecroppers on a white plantation in Greenwood, Miss., where black people bent over cotton from can't-see-in-the-morning to can't-see-at-night, just as their enslaved ancestors had done not long before.” This quote I used shows how the writer explains what her father went through because of racism the author proceeds to say on how her grandmother bought a home in a segregated area and lived rough she says this to make the reader feel connected to the author because of what her family went through basically trying to connect the writer and reader together. I feel as though the method I chose is effective because connecting the reader and writer makes the reader want to read more and want to see what else they relate to the author with also I feel as though they listen to the author more the more the reader relates to the author.