

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

What It Takes to Be Great: Postreading

Activity 13: Thinking Critically

Work with your group to answer the assigned question. Select a reporter to write down your group's answers. If you finish early, answer some of the other questions. Be prepared to share your answers with the class. Write down the responses to the questions that you hear from your classmates, and put them in a folder with the other work you are doing with Colvin's article.

Group 1

In paragraphs 12-21, Colvin begins to explain what deliberate practice is. Look at paragraphs 13 and 20 (where Colvin gives two specific examples of deliberate practice). What are the most important characteristics of deliberate practice?

Group 2

What do you think is the purpose of the article? What does he hope his readers walk away with? How might the article affect readers?

Group 3

Why does Colvin say that it's "good news" that "your lack of a natural gift is irrelevant" (paragraph 3)? Is it good news to you? Why or why not?

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Group 4

In your own words, what question or problem makes the researchers want to study great performers?
Why were the researchers trying to find out what makes people become so great in their fields?

Group 5

What evidence that Colvin uses to support his argument about “what it takes to be great” do you consider to be the most convincing? Why?

Group 6

In paragraph 24, Colvin argues that we don’t just need natural talent to be great, that “we can make ourselves what we will.” He thinks it’s strange more people don’t like that idea. In the following sentence, he explains what he thinks may be the reason. Why might people “hate abandoning the notion that they would coast to fame and riches if they found their talent”?