

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

## What It Takes to Be Great: Pre-Reading

### Activity 4: Exploring Key Concepts

In the essay you will be reading, Geoff Colvin's "What It Takes to Be Great," the author presents new research on greatness. Understanding words often used in talking about research will improve your understanding of the essay.

Below you will find a number of words that are a part of the topic of research. In pairs, fill in the first chart with words that seem similar in meaning to the words at the top of each column. In the second chart, fill in words that do not seem to be similar to any of the others.

Be ready to share why you grouped them how you did with another pair. As you do this activity, think about the relationship between these different parts of research.

authors of a study  
conclude  
conclusion  
evidence  
experts

findings  
observations  
problem  
publication  
question

research  
researchers  
scientific  
study

	Authors of a Study	conclusion	problem	research	evidence
Words Similar in Meaning					
words not similar to any others:					

### **Activity 5: Surveying the Text (before reading it)**

Look at the text and discuss the following questions in groups than as a class:

What does the title of Colvin's article, "What It Takes to Be Great," hint about the essay's topic?

What is the subtitle of the article? What does it tell you about what the article might say?

What do you know about the author of the article and where it was published? Do you expect to find the author's ideas believable? Will it be interesting?

What can you tell about the article by looking at its length, the length of its paragraphs, and the subheadings throughout the article?

### **Activity 6: Making Predictions and Asking Questions**

Read the first three paragraphs. What are they about?

Now read the last paragraph. Colvin says, "But the striking, liberating news is that greatness isn't reserved for a small few who—gifted with natural talent—were born to be great." What does this mean?

From reading these few paragraphs, complete the following sentences:

a) I predict that the article will be about

b) I predict that the author will argue that greatness