

**7.2.2—Colvin’s Article,
“What it Takes to be Great” [Adapted]
Text Dependent Questions (TDQs)
Due at Beginning of Class _____**

WORD	PARAGRAPH	DEFINITION
Consistent		
Deliberate		
Elite		
Innate		
Obsessive		
Sporadically		

Text-Dependent Questions—Each group member answers all questions for their group on a separate sheet of paper. Each answer must have textual evidence—**at least one quote**—to support your answer. You may have the same answer as your partner(s).

Group A: TDQs 1, 2, 3, 7; Group B: TDQs 1, 3, 4, 7; Group C: TDQs 1, 5, 6, 7.

- 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?
- What is the purpose of the article? What does he hope his readers walk away with? How might the article affect readers? What portion has the most impact on you? Why?
- Why does Colvin say that it’s “good news [that] your lack of a natural gift is irrelevant” (3)? Define any unfamiliar terms in the statement and answer the following questions: Is it good news to you? Why or why not?
- Why does it seem that researchers are trying to study great performers and find out what makes people so great in their fields? Who would you study and why?
- What is the most convincing argument/example of greatness that Colvin uses to support his ideas of what it takes to be great? Which example(s) do you agree with or disagree with the most? (Be sure to say if you are agreeing or disagreeing). (A well-developed answer will have at least one of each)...
- At one point in the argument, Colvin claims and supports the claim that we do not just need natural talent to be great, that “we can make ourselves what we will” (24). He thinks that it is strange that more people do not like that idea—that it is up to the person to change/adapt as they want for greatness. In the following sentence (from when he first says this, in paragraph 24), he explains what he thinks may be the reason that people are against his claim. Why might people “hate abandoning the notion that they would coast to fame and riches if they found their talent” (24)? Do you agree with his reasons? Do you agree with the statement?
- Write a precis for the article “What it Takes to be Great” by Geoff Colvin.