**Digital Learning 5/4-5/8**

**Suggested Schedule for This Week:**

* Monday – Read the “WMDs” article excerpt by Brian O’ Connor. Then, answer the reading analysis questions.
* Tuesday – Review the closed vs open-ended question notes. Then, complete the closed vs open-ended question practice questions.
* Wednesday – Read the Chuck Liddell interview transcript, then answer the first three reading analysis questions.
* Thursday - Complete the “Working from the Text” questions for the interview transcript.
* Friday – Complete any unfinished questions and review/submit this assignment either via Turnitin.com, emailed to me, or send me pictures via remind if you complete this on notebook paper. Feel free to reach out to me for any questions, or if you need any help!

**Learning Targets**

* Analyze how the relationship between a writer, the target audience, and the writer’s purpose informs a writer’s choices.
* Analyze the intended effect of descriptive narrative on readers’ perspectives.
* Transform an interview transcript into a narrative.
* Develop criteria for carefully crafting questions, including follow-up questions.
* Sequence questions to improve logical flow in an interview.

*In this activity, you will read an article about Chuck Liddell and analyze how the author incorporates narrative elements into his writing.*

**WMDs**

*by Brian O’Connor, Men’s Fitness*

1 WHO IS THE NEW AMERICAN FIGHTER? For starters, he resembles Chuck

Liddell: With a thick coil of a neck and a close-cropped Mohawk, the Ultimate Fighting

Championship’s (UFC) light-heavyweight title-holder looks like a Marine who’d take

great delight in clearing a mosh pit. And that Chinese calligraphy tattooed on the side

of his head? Obviously his threshold for pain far surpasses that of the average Joe—and

Jim, Bill, and Bob combined.

2 And that’s helpful when you work inside an octagonal cage for a living. As a mixed

martial artist (the technical term for Ultimate Fighting Championship competitors),

Liddell, aka “Th e Iceman,” combines fisticuffs, kickboxing, wrestling, and choke holds

to either knock out his opponent or force him to “tap out,” indicating a submission. In

any other context, of course, this behavior would pass for felonious assault, so being

within arm’s length of Liddell for a day imparts a clarifying effect. Here’s a man not only

capable of kneeing you in the ribs until you’re coughing blood, but who’d enjoy doing it.

Or he could deliver a flying kick to your face that floors you, or land a haymaker with

such ferocity that your brain trickles out your nose. Yes, the clarity is unmistakable: You

are not a fighter, and Chuck Liddell is.

3 But then you start talking with Chuck Liddell, and that clarity becomes clouded.

You discover he grew up in sunny, sleepy Santa Barbara, Calif., and he has a degree in accounting

with a minor in business from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. And then you

learn that nearly 80% of the Ultimate Fighters have at least some college education, if

not degrees. Many are communications grads, engineers, and computer programmers

who come from farms and middle-class suburbs. In that respect, they are just like you.

“If I weren’t fighting, I’d be in the business world,” says the 37-year-old Liddell. “I did

well in school, was the captain of the wrestling team and the football team, and always

got along well with people, so I’m sure I would have gotten a job in the real world. I

probably wouldn’t have liked that, though.”

4 And then it becomes clear that Liddell, like most professional fighters, has made

a decision: to reject the life of the suit and the cubicle and revert to the most primal of

instincts. And somewhere in the balance, he’s maximizing his youthful exuberance and

finding his own sense of manhood.

5 “After the Spike TV show began airing, my career and the sport and the fan base

changed,” says Liddell, whose $1 million purses have bought him a mansion and a

Ferrari. “People accepted us and became more educated about what we do. I get noticed

everywhere now, and it’s surprising who recognizes me—like this one 50-year-old lady

who had a tattoo of my face on her shoulder. It’s gotten a lot crazier.”

6 During the hour we linger in Muggs, dozens of men drift into the bar, all

somehow not working on a Wednesday at 1 p.m., and none of them drinking.

Liddell politely tries to step toward the front door, but that’s not going to happen.

The owner would like to snap a few photos; one guy has his buddy Sean on the

phone—“Chuck, can you talk to him?” “Hey, can you sign this for me?” Liddell

diplomatically obliges. The sound of backslapping and the hushed murmur of awe

and deference fill the air.

7 Eventually we escape in a hired SUV that takes us to Manhattan’s Peninsula Hotel

before shuttling us to a taping of Late Night With Conan O’Brien and then Th e Wiseguy

Show on Sirius Satellite Radio ...

8 The SUV stops and Liddell exits toward the gilded entrance ... where a small

pack of fans congregate. He calmly signs autographs, gloves, and posters ... It

occurs to me that the Chinese calligraphy tattooed on his head, which Liddell

translates as “place of peace and prosperity” is a self-fulfilling prophecy. He is living

in the moment.

9 In a few weeks, he’ll return to his grueling training schedule, walking a

wheelbarrow fi lled with 150 pounds of concrete up and down a steep San Luis Obispo

driveway. And when he returns to the octagon to do battle with his next opponent, a

college degree might seem inconsequential, but it’s not. He’s defending against multiple

disciplines from competitors who have grown up on MMA—from Japan, Britain,

Eastern Europe, and Canada—guys who are helping the sport evolve and adding new

martial-arts disciplines into the mix. And they’re gunning for him. “Fighting is like

chess, and boxing is like checkers” says Liddell. “You have to defend against guys who

are coming at you with all sorts of new tactics, new martial arts. You must be aware on

different levels.”

10 In many ways, then, Liddell’s job isn’t unlike yours. You’re competing in a global

economy against younger guys looking to supplant you. As the world changes, so

change is what a man must do to survive. Chuck Liddell has made his choice ...

**Reading Analysis Questions**

1. Key Ideas and Details: In both fiction and nonfiction, characters are brought to life through details about their appearance, actions, and speech. Pay attention to the descriptions in the interview that help you get a clear picture of Liddell. What can you infer (make an educated guess) about Liddell based on these details?
2. Craft and Structure: Where does O’Connor shift from explanatory text to narrative text in his interview write-up? Why is this shift in writing types effective?
3. Craft and Structure: What is the effect of describing Liddell in the future tense in paragraph 9?

**OPEN-ENDED AND CLOSE-ENDED QUESTIONS**

**NOTES: What is the difference between open-ended and closed questions?**

Questions that require a “yes” or “no” answer are close-ended questions, because no more

information in needed or required.

* Q: “Did you eat lunch today?” A: “Yes, I did.”
* Q: “Have you ever used a computer?” A: “Yes, I have.”

Questions that require the answerer to give more information or details are open-ended, because they “open” a conversation and provide an opportunity for new questions to be asked.

* Q: “Why didn’t you come to school yesterday?”
* A: “My son was sick and I had to take him to the doctor. Then I had to go to the drugstore to fill a prescription, …”
* Q: “When are you available to work?”
* A: “I can work days and some weekends.”
* Q: “What about evenings? “

**Exercise I.** *Read the examples of appropriate situations for using close-ended and open-ended questions. Then add your own example. Share your ideas with the class.*

A. When is it most appropriate to use close-ended questions and yes/no or short

responses?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. In an emergency | Medic: Are you allergic to penicillin?  Patient: No. |
| 1. To make a quick report of work finished or unfinished | Manager: Did you finish everything on the list?  Employee: Yes. |
| 1. At a job interview | Write your own example below (or on your sheet of notebook paper): |

B. When is it most appropriate to use open-ended questions and detailed responses?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. At a party | Guest #1: So, how do you know Sue?  Guest #2: Oh, we met in school. We had a lot of classes together. |
| 2. At a job interview | Interviewer: What was one of your favorite jobs and why?  Interviewee: I love math and I love teaching, so one of my favorite jobs was working as a high school math teacher after I finished my university studies. |
| 3. During a radio interview with a celebrity | Write your own example below (or on your sheet of notebook paper): |

**Exercise II. Change the following questions from close-ended to open-ended questions.**

1. Nice weather we’re having, isn’t it?
2. Did you like your last job?
3. Are you tired?
4. Do you like chicken?

*You have just read an article about Chuck Liddell, who was interviewed by the writer of the article. On the next page, you will read a* ***transcript*** *by a different writer of an interview with Chuck Liddell. While you are reading, think about how a transcript is different from an article.*

**Chuck Liddell**

*by* Steven Yaccino

Chuck “the Iceman” Liddell still lives in the town of his **alma mater**. Th at’s

right: Th is trained lethal weapon earned a B.A. in accounting at Cal Poly before

claiming the Ultimate Fighting Championship light heavyweight title in 2005.

He’s since become a mixed martial arts superstar, appearing on an episode of

HBO’s *Entourage* and authoring the memoir *Iceman: My Fighting Life*. Here,

Liddell revisits his Cal Poly days, back when he juggled priorities and drank a

lot of caffeine.

**Occupation:** UFC fighter

**Grew up:** Santa Barbara, Calif.

**College attended:** California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

**Major:** Accounting

**Graduation year:** 1995

**Nickname:** Th e Iceman. My trainer called me that because I don’t get nervous

before fights.

**Favorite drink / midnight snack:** Mountain Dew was my favorite drink through

college; it kept me up studying for a lot of tests. Also, any kind of candy.

**1. How and why did you choose your major?**

I was just good at it. Numbers have always come easy to me. When you came

in as a freshman at Cal Poly, you had to declare a major. After about three

years, I thought about changing it to construction management, because I was

doing construction over the summers, or to PE. Originally, PE was the major I

wanted, but my grandparents didn’t see it as a real major. They saw it as I was

going to be a PE teacher: They didn’t realize that at Cal Poly, it was only two

classes away from being pre-med. They didn’t see that as looking for a real job.

I think being a PE coach is a real job, but that’s just me.

**2. Were you a part of any activities like sports, music, clubs, or theater?**

I played football my first year, and I wrestled for all five. You start football

before school starts, and when you’re done with football, wrestling has already

started. Then when you’re done with wrestling, there are three or four weeks

and you’re back into spring ball. And then you have a half of a summer and

you’re back into summer football.

It was just a little much. Plus, I was trying to cut weight for wrestling and trying

to put on weight for football. It got to the point where I had to make a decision

about where I wanted to be. I think I made the right decision with what I ended

up doing.

**3. Do you keep in touch with any of your college friends?**

Yeah, a bunch of them. I still live in San Luis Obispo, so there’s a bunch of us

still here. Up until a couple years ago, my best friend in college lived a block

away from me.

**4. Were you a bookworm or a slacker?**

I was the guy that would cram for everything, so I guess I was a bit of a slacker.

I was a procrastinator. I spent a lot of all-nighters getting ready for tests.

**5. Did you have a role model when you were in college?**

Not really. I just kind of learned stuff on my own.

**6. What was the biggest obstacle you overcame in college?**

Th e biggest thing was balancing working out, competing, and academics to

graduate. And also working in the summers to try and save money.

**7. What did you like most and least about your school?**

I love the town. It’s a small town; it’s beautiful here. I like visiting big cities, but I

don’t do well there for long periods of time.

**8. Tell us one way in which college changed you.**

I grew up while I was in college. I learned how to take care of myself. I learned

how to prioritize things. I learned how to get things done.

**9. If you could go back, what about college would you do differently?**

I might have cared a little more about my grades. I ended up with a 3.1, but I

could have easily done a lot better. I just didn’t care too much.

I had a class where I was actually tutoring two kids from the wrestling team, but

I got a C because I didn’t do any of the homework. Th e teacher said if I turned

in my homework on the day of the fi nal, she’d give me my A or else she was

going to give me a C. Th e guys I was tutoring gave me the homework to copy,

and I copied four of them and said forget it: I’ll take the C. Stuff like that. Not

that it matters too much. I mean, I graduated.

**10. What was your favorite hangout spot?**

I used to bar-tend in college at a cool place. It was called Brubeck’s. I worked

probably six or seven days a week. We’d get a lot of different people there; it was

a lot of fun.

**11. Which schools did you apply to?**

U of C-Berkeley, Cal Poly, and other West Coast schools. I went with Cal Poly

because I wanted to wrestle and play football.

**12. Did you get into all of them?**

I got into all the schools I applied to except Cal Poly. I guess they lost my

application. I never got a rejection or an acceptance. I either messed up on the

application or it just didn’t get through. My coach had to get me in. Th ey have

a way for a lot of teams to get you into the school. I don’t know how it worked

exactly, but I had the grades and SATs to get into my major.

**Reading Analysis Questions**

1. Craft and Structure:Explain the connection between Liddell’s nickname, “The

Iceman,” and his demeanor before a fight.

2. Craft and Structure:Where do you find examples of parallel structure in

Liddell’s responses? Why do you think he uses parallel structure in each

instance?

3. Key Ideas and Details**:** After reading this interview, what inferences can you

make about Liddell’s character traits?

**Working from the Text**

4. Which interview questions were *open-ended questions*? (Write the interview question number instead of rewriting the whole question).

5. Which interview questions were *closed questions*? (Write the interview question number instead of rewriting the whole question).

6. Write down three of the closed questions from the interview. Then, write a follow-up question or rewrite each question to make it better and elicit a more detailed answer from the interviewee. An example has been done for you.

*\*If you are completing this on notebook paper, simply draw out the chart on your paper as best you can. Be sure you label.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Original Closed Interview Question:** | **Rewritten or Follow-Up Question:** |
| EX) Were you a bookworm or a slacker? | EX) What kind of student were you in college? How did those study habits affect your grades? |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |