

## TEACHER GUIDE

### PRODUCTION OF WRITING

#### *Transitions and Inferencing*

*Directions.* Complete the following Fill-in-the-Blank activity using the transitional words/phrases from your Skill Sets Check handout. Then, answer the discussion questions below.

The novel also serves as a good example of how the 1920s were affected by World War I and its effects. First and foremost, the United States was able to celebrate the victory of World War I. After World War I, the United States experienced a massive amount of wealth flushed into the economy. Additionally, many people who had never been wealthy now experienced the upper class through bootlegging and other illegal means. The new wealth experienced during the 1920s brought a great amount of joy and excitement. Subsequently, the spirit of the war lingers throughout the novel. For example, Gatsby himself is a war hero, who lost his youthful love while he was overseas in Europe. Furthermore, Gatsby gains his wealth as a bootlegger and through organized crime figures. Just like the nation, Fitzgerald writes about a character who gained great wealth after World War I, possibly at the cost of his morals.

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#### *Discussion Questions*

What type of essay would you imagine this paragraph to be in?

#### **Informative**

What type of paragraph would this be in an essay?

#### **Body paragraph**

What do you think the main idea or focus of the full essay may be?

**Key words:** Great Gatsby, World War I, Roaring 1920's

## Parts of a Paragraph

*Directions.* Label the parts of the paragraph based on the role each sentence plays. Use just the first letter.

*Note:* some labels may be used more than once.

(C)laim	(E)vidence	(R)easoning
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*The Great Gatsby* also depicts the cultural changes of the 1920s ( **C** ). As the decade progressed and class distinctions began to break down and change, social barriers also shifted, especially for women and African Americans ( **C** ). The flapper subculture offered a relief of societal expectations for women, as they began to party, smoke, dance, and dress in ways that previous generations would have considered unacceptable ( **E** ). Jazz proved to be the music of the era, allowing prominent African American musicians to rise to fame ( **E** ). Many of the characters in the novel, like Daisy and Jordan, struggle between their newfound freedom as women in the 1920s and the oppressive structures that still existed for them ( **E** ). All the while, jazz plays in the background of many events in the novel, literally steeping the novel in the jazz age ( **R** ). By commenting on these societal changes, the novel becomes timeless by providing a perspective on the 1920s while they were happening ( **R** ).

## GREAT GATSBY

Paragraph 1 – “Since its publication in 1925, F. Scott Fitzgerald’s *The Great Gatsby*...”

Paragraph 2 – “The novel’s themes of excess, wealth, and the emotional turmoil of Jay Gatsby...”

Paragraph 3 – “The novel also serves as a good example of how the 1920s were affected by World War I...”

Paragraph 4 – “*The Great Gatsby* also depicts the cultural changes of the 1920s...”

Paragraph 5 – “The prose of *The Great Gatsby* makes reading the novel a great experience almost a...”

Paragraph 6 – “When discussing *The Great Gatsby*, it can be hard to explain why this book has been...”