**Elaboration Techniques to Make Your Evidence Stronger:**

**Literary Analysis**

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| **Technique for Elaboration** | **Getting Started** |
| Add a Detail about It | *In fact, ...* |
| Say it in a New Way  (this is great for quotations that the reader might not understand) | *In other words, ...*  *To put it another way, ...* |
| Explain When in the story the Event Happened | *When…(text evidence)* |
| Back up your Evidence with a Direct Quotation | *The author writes,*  *“............” (#).* |
| Explain Why the Character Did This | *S/he feels…*  *S/he wants…*  *S/he needs…*  *S/he is trying to…*  *S/he realizes...* |
| Explain the Effects of the Event | *Because of (this)…*  *As a result…*  *For this reason...*  *Consequently...*  *If s/he had ...then...*  *If not for… then*  *If (this) had not happened… then...* |
| Connect the Evidence to the Theme | *Here, the author is trying to show the reader that…*  *The author did this because…*  *The message here is that...* |

**Sample with Evidence but NO elaboration:**

Growing up has its difficult moments. In the story “Seventh Grade” by Gary Soto, Mr. Bueller is a very understanding teacher. For example, he did not punish Victor for making a silly comment in class. Furthermore, Mr. Bueller did not tell Teresa that Victor really did not know French. Growing up can be difficult but having an understanding adult in your life can make the awkward years a little less painful.

**Sample with Evidence AND Elaboration:**

Growing up has its difficult moments. In the story “Seventh Grade” by Gary Soto, Mr. Bueller is an understanding French teacher who saves Victor, a hopeless romantic, from great embarrassment. For example, when Victor attempts to speak fake “French” in class, Mr. Bueller covers for him. Mr. Bueller could have punished Victor for interrupting class with his silly sounding comment, but fortunately for Victor, Mr. Bueller was sensitive enough to know that Victor was just trying to impress a special someone. Furthermore, Mr. Bueller’s sensitivity is also seen when Teresa, the crush, actually compliments Victor on his French. Again, Mr. Bueller did not say anything that would further humiliate Victor. Mr. Bueller was so understanding because he could relate to Victor’s problem. Gary Soto writes, “He remembered his college years when he dated a girlfriend in borrowed cars. She thought he was rich because each time he picked her up he had a different car” (11). Mr. Understanding realized from his own experience that Victor was no class clown—just another seventh grade Romeo. Growing up can be difficult but having an understanding adult in your life can make the awkward years a little less painful.