# **Imitate Authorly Structure for a Personal Response**

Students identify the rhetorical maneuvers an author makes, and use this as a framework for a piece of writing. One example is Malcolm X’s “A Homemade Education,” which is an excerpt from his autobiography. In this text Malcolm X describes how he became literate while in prison, and how he began reading texts that motivated him to join the struggle for civil rights for black Americans.

The text has a three-part structure:

1. His motivation to learn to read,

2. His process of becoming literate,

3. The results of his literacy.

Students, then, will read Malcom X’s text, discuss these maneuvers, and write an essay in which they discuss their own motivation to improve in some way, the process of improving, and the results of their progress.