

Name: _____ Date: _____

Video Discussion Questions

Behind the Scenes: "Killer Smog"

PART 1

Directions: After watching the video—but before reading "Killer Smog"—answer the following questions.

1. Lauren Tarshis says she wanted to create a mood of "quiet terror" in the beginning of her article (1:50). Do the lines that appear on the screen at 1:54 successfully create this mood? Explain.

2. A list of sensory words that Lauren uses to describe the Killer Smog appears on-screen at 2:34. Come up with a list of sensory words and phrases that you might use to describe a beach scene on a beautiful summer day.

3. In the video, Lauren explains that good writers don't just tell you something, they show you (3:09–4:09). Explain what she means. What is the difference between "telling" and "showing"?

PART 2

Directions: After reading "Killer Smog," fill in the chart below. For each of the writing techniques listed in the far left-hand column, write an example from the article (a different one than is given in the video) and explain how that line or those lines affect the reader.

	Example from "Killer Smog"	What is the effect?
Creating a Mood		
Writing with Sensory Details		
Building Pictures in the Reader's Mind (Imagery)		