

INTERESTS, PEOPLE, HOBBIES, GOALS IMPORTANT TO MY LIFE	TOPICS STUDIED IN CLASS RIGHT NOW	CONNECTION
Video games	Linear functions	Video games and linear functions are connected because I can use the function to decide if I should rent a video game (linear function) or buy it (fixed cost) based on how much I will use it. Linear functions could be important in my life . I can use them to determine the exact usage over time that would make buying something cheaper than renting it.
Technology	Expansion of interregional trade routes in the post-classical era	Technology and the expansion of interregional trade routes are connected, and here's why: as human beings become more connected through trade, technology tends to improve at a faster rate. In our earlier unit, we saw humans very slowly developing from bronze to iron metal working. As trade routes developed through the classical era, technological improvements increased as different regions began sharing ideas. The same pattern continued in the post-classical era, and it continues to this day with the crazy connectedness brought about by the internet. This is important to my life because I love technology and it's interesting to me to see that we live in a time of never-before-seen global connectedness.
My friends	The novel <i>A Separate Peace</i> , by John Knowles	My friends and Knowles's novel are connected because in the novel, the characters have some twisted parts of their friendships. For example, Gene is secretly jealous of Finny, who is successful at a lot of things, and the novel has helped me see that I, too, am sometimes jealous of my friends who are less socially awkward than me or more athletic than me. This kind of jealousy can eat away at friendships, and in the case of Gene they might have even caused him to hurt Finny. Seeing this could help my life because I can do something about the jealousy before it consumes me.

FIGURE 2.5 • Example of a “Build Connections” Exercise