Text specific lesson question: How does Joanne Hyppolite control structure, point-of-view and word choice to develop an argument in her narrative nonfiction piece, “Dyaspora”?

Think about: What would you do if you felt like life was pulling you in two directions?

KEY BACKGROUND information:

* Diaspora: A **diaspora** is a scattered population with a common origin in a smaller geographic area. The word can also refer to the movement of the population from its original homeland.
* Haiti: A country southeast of Cuba which shares the island of Hispanola with the Dominican Republic. Haiti has a long history of conflict. Europeans took control of the island in 1664 and imported slaves. In 1803, Haiti gained self-rule after the slaves successfully fought off European powers. From 1915-1934, the US occupied Haiti. Haiti has had many coups and suffered from political instability since then. It is considered by the United Nations to be one of the most impoverished countries in the world.
* The Haitian Diaspora: Over the last fifty-years, million have migrated from Haiti to other nations. The majority have moved to the Dominican Republic, Canada, and the US. Haitians moved because of political oppression, economic hardships, as well as a lack of opportunity in Haiti.

Brief Summary:

* This piece is about a woman growing up as a Haitian-American.
* She talks about each of the specific places in her life and how it felt to live in each one.
* She uses a lot of French words that would have been used by her Haitian family.
* She talks about being part of a group, but struggling to fit into parts of American Culture
* She writes about how reading and writing are a way to understand others and to help them understand you

Literary Focus: Pay attention to the following areas and how Hyppolite creates them:

* Organization: Is it Chronological, Compare and Contrast, Inductive, Deductive, Sequential, Spatial? (PSST- it’s a combination of two!!)
* Topic sentences (check out how she gives each paragraph one of these)
* Point-of View (1st “I”; 3rd ‘They, he”; **2ND “you”**)
* Word choice (check out the unique way she describes things)
* Tone (use your tone resources to help determine this. PSST – it’s not calm) (PSSST – it might shift in places.)