What is Guided Discovery?

Stage 1: Setting the context

Ask students if they usually read or write reviews. Ask them why reviews are important and if they have ever bought something, been to a concert or watched a film because of a review.

Stage 2: Presenting language to students via text

Ask students to read the album review. In order to give them a reason to read, you can ask:

1. What’s the author general opinion about the album?
2. Based on this review, would you like to buy / download / listen to the album?

Taylor Swift has already written enough great songs for two or three careers. In 1989, she surprises everybody with a record that sounds nothing like her previous and extraordinarily successful album, Red, released in 2012. Tay gives a stunning performance, and her simpatico producer, Nathan Chapman, brings about the change Taylor needed to display her unique talent for writing love lyrics about dudes who probably can’t even spell “lyrics”. The killer finale (“Clean”, a power ballad that takes you back to the 80s) is the cherry on top: it’s the conclusive proof that Swift is here to stay.

Stage 3: Guided discovery - focus on Meaning, Pronunciation and Form

1 Read the text again and find a collocation that means:

A very special gift a person is born with _______ _______
A music record that achieved the desired result _______ _______
Evidence that shows that something is definitely true _______ _______
Singing in a very impressive and beautiful way _______ _______
Words of a song that are very sincere _______ _______
A more informal way of saying good songs _______ _______
What do these word combinations have in common? Why are they being used in a review?

2 Mark the stress in the following collocations. One example is given:

stunning performance conclusive proof heartfelt lyrics
unique talent great songs successful album

3 Can you remember the collocations?

ALBUM _______ LYRICS _______ TALENT _______
GREAT _______ CONCLUSIVE _______ PERFORMANCE _______

Text adapted from http://www.rollingstone.com/music/albumreviews/taylor-swift-1989-20141024

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