



Reading Comprehension Strategies

How to Read Efficiently Under Time Pressure: Reading Like a Writer

1. **T - Techniques.** Read with a purpose. The Writer's Goals and Techniques need to be at the back of your mind. Preview the question stems (if it works for you).
2. **O - Organization.** Eyeball the text structure. View it from the author's perspective of how the passage is organized.
 - Pay attention to the first few sentences and end sentences of each paragraph.
 - Most informational texts are arranged from general to specific.
 - Prose fiction passages are arranged differently.
 - Look for major sections of the passage.
3. **P - Passage Map.** Encircle key words and punctuations : transitions, continuers, contradictors, strong language and interesting punctuations.

Tips:

- Not all sentences are created equal.
- Read selectively.
- Know when to read fast and when to read carefully.
- Very often, answers are close to major transitions, strong language and interesting punctuations (semicolon, colon, comma).
- Use codes, circles, asterisks, etc. Overmarking will slow you down.
- Underlining everything means not underlining at all.

When answering a question:

1. Quickly paraphrase the question in your own words (if it's too long)
2. Mark the question stems for lead words.
3. Use your passage map. Think logically which section in the passage it's likely located.
4. Reread the passage section.

When eliminating choices, look for the following:

1. too general
2. too specific
3. not mentioned
4. irrelevant
5. extreme
6. contradictory
7. direct quotes or trap words

Best answer choices are:

1. paraphrased
2. moderate: may, can, often
3. implicit: contain evidence



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Key Words and Punctuations

Continuers		Contradictors
<p>Add Information</p> <p>And Furthermore Moreover In addition Also As well as First In the first place Second, third, etc For example For instance One/another reason</p> <p>Draw a conclusion</p> <p>So Therefore Thus Thereby As a result</p> <p>Compare</p> <p>Similarity Like/likewise As Just as Much as/like</p> <p>Explain/Define</p> <p>Because The reason/answer is That is why That is to say Colon Dash</p>	<p>Speculate</p> <p>If May Maybe Might Could Perhaps It is possible</p> <p>Emphasize</p> <p>Indeed In fact Let me be clear Italics Capital letters Exclamation point Repetition (word, phrase)</p> <p>Indicate Importance</p> <p>Important Significant Essential Principal Central Key Point Goal Purpose Main</p>	<p>But However Yet Although On the contrary On one hand On the other hand In contrast Whereas While Despite In spite of Nevertheless Meanwhile Instead Still Rather than Misguided False</p> <p>Question</p> <p>But is it really true... Question mark</p>



Key Ideas and Details (KID) Strategy Card

Specific Details - Narrative 1. Look at the descriptions of the narrator with regards to settings and events. 2. Look at what the character/s say, think or do.	Main Idea - Narrative 1. Look at the title. 2. Skim your passage map. 3. Ask yourself: how does the title connect to the content in the passage?	Cause & Effect Cause – action Effect – result 1. Look for keywords (because, as a result, for some reasons, etc) 2. Identify which one is the effect/cause
Specific Details – Informational 1. Identify the key word or phrase in the question. 2. Think logically about where in the major section of the passage that topic is discussed. 3. When you've found the key word, read each section where it appears.	Main Idea – Informational 1. Look at the key words. 2. Skim your passage map. 3. Connect the ideas/details within the passage.	Sequences of Events 1. Look for actions of the character (prose) or events (narrative informational) in chronological order.
Same idea, different words While many correct answers to KID will restate the passage, some correct answers will rephrase the wording of the passage using synonyms. 1. Identify the key word/phrase in the question 2. Think about where it's likely to be located. 3. Reread carefully.	Multiple Answers This may sometimes involve more than 1 paragraph	



Craft & Structure (CS) Strategy Card

<p>Author's Tone – “vibe” <i>Word choices of the author</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Look for word choices and punctuations used by the author 2. Ask yourself: what is the vibe of the passage? 	<p>Words and Phrases in Context</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reread the whole paragraph where the tricky word is used (BAT) 2. Look for clues: description/synonyms opposite/antonyms Tone 3. Other writers techniques 	<p>Functions of Sentences & Paragraphs - Narrative</p> <p>Look at the organization of the passage which includes the sequence of sentences.</p> <p>Ask yourself: how are they put together?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main idea vs details • Primary importance vs secondary importance • First person narration (I) vs second person (you) vs third person.
<p>Author's Voice –attitude of the author</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Look for word choices and punctuation used by the author 2. Ask yourself: what is the author's attitude? 	<p>Authors Method <i>Combination of main idea and purpose of the passage.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reread the appropriate paragraph. 1. Ask yourself: what is the author's technique? 	<p>Point of View Questions <i>Identify the passage's purpose</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rhetorical goal or function. Why did the author write this? 2. Correct answers will contain neutral purpose words such as explain or illustrate rather than praise or promote. 3. Pay attention to scope. Does it focus on one specific thing or things in general. 4. Comparing & contrasting point of views. Pay attention to main focus of the passage vs information that is merely included in the passage. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main idea vs details • Primary importance vs secondary importance • First person narration (I) vs second person (you) vs third person.



Reading Comprehension Strategies

Synthesis (Integration of Knowledge & Ideas) Strategy Card

<p>Arguments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Look for the claim.2. Look for the evidence or the reasons of the author.	<p>Inferences – Narrative</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Look at what the character say, think or do or any descriptive details.2. Come to a conclusion.	<p>Compare-Contrast/Similarities & Differences</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Reread the passages.2. Look at the different author techniques used in each passage3. Come to a conclusion what makes them similar and/or different.
	<p>Inferences – Informational</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Look at the word choices.2. Figure out the connotations (i.e. the way the words make you feel) of the word or phrases.3. Come to a conclusion.	



Reading Comprehension Strategies

Paired Passages Strategies

<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Read Passage A: think about the main point and tone (positive, negative, neutral)2. Answer Passage A questions3. Read Passage B: thing about the main point, tone, relationship to Passage A4. Answer Passage B questions5. Answer Passage A/B "relationship" questions	<p>Sample Passage A</p> <p>Main point: probably good health Tone: slightly positive, cautiously optimistic</p>	<p>Sample Passage B</p> <p>Main point: not sure if happiness = health Tone: slightly negative, skeptical</p> <p>Therefore Passage A relationship to Passage B is---- disagree.... Or agree...</p> <p>Similarities of A/B are....</p> <p>Difference of A/B are....</p>
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