



Reading Comprehension for Practice and for the Test

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Readings in a Larger Context

- Readings for multiple-choice questions are from the 1960's and before
- Readings for the written responses are more contemporary
- Practice, Practice, Practice!

Notes

- Practice taking notes in margins
 - Writing is conversation
 - Write your reasons for noting a section
- Keywords
- What a text says and what a text does
- Summarize
 - Separating main ideas from supporting details

Example



Claim

"If there was a single moment when she felt a sense of the harmony between her instincts and her environment most clearly, it might have been on a Paris street in the sixth arrondissement one night shortly after the start of World War I. Stein and Picasso were walking home from a dinner, when a French military convoy rolled past them. But this convoy was different. It *looked* different: the sides of the trucks and the cabs had been splotted unevenly with different colors of paint. The two of them froze... 'That is Cubism!'"



Evidence

Practice Strategies for Reading and Writing

Double-entry Journal

- "Coal-burning power plants produce 2.5 billion tons of CO₂ every year."
- "Automobiles create nearly 1.5 billion tons of CO₂ annually."
- "These statistics will be powerful 'shockers' for the essay, yet it may not be a good idea to use them, since some readers tend to tune out statistics."

Questions

- Explore
 - Why could I learn from this? What does this make me think?
- Explain
 - What do I understand this to be saying?
- Evaluate
 - Is this persuasive? How do I interpret this?
- Reflect
 - How is this put together? How can I use this information?

Author Intent

Point of View

- Word choice/tone
 - "Here's lookin' at you, kid."
 - "Mr. and Mrs. Dursley, of number four, Privet Drive, were proud to say that they were perfectly normal, thank you very much."
- Purpose and audience
 - The author is trying to influence your opinion
 - Persuasive power
 - Stylistic choices
 - "It was a **well-rounded, prosperous**, comfortable beginning, one intended to produce a **well-rounded, prosperous** life with all the usual accoutrements of family, stability, and friends."

Methods of Persuasion

- Ethics (Ethos)
 - After making 1,000 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, I know the proper ratio of peanut butter to jelly, but if you don't like this sandwich, I'll make you a new one.
- Emotion (Pathos)
 - My father used Jif peanut butter on the last sandwich he made for me, so I always use Jif to honor his memory.
- Reasoning, Logic (Logos)
 - According to studies done in New York, California, and Texas, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches are the most popular lunch sandwich among high school students.

Author versus Reader

- Personal assumptions versus literary evidence
 - “Almost like a collector of great art, she began to collect great talent: Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Pablo Picasso, and a dozen other great names of the revolution that became known as modernism.”
- Translating author’s ideas into comfort zones
 - Not laziness, not stupidity, just habit