

## Watch the instructional SAT Reading Video on the Student Homepage!

### About

- 65 Minutes
- Five Reading Passage – Narrative, Science, Social Science, Global Conversation
- Approximately 800 words per passage
- 10 questions per passage that mostly go in order

### Process

- Pencil on page at all times!
- Skim: focus on introduction, topic sentences, conclusion, and techniques below
- After skimming, read closely and answer questions as you go.
- Always read <sup>ABOVE</sup> and <sub>BELOW</sub> the line references
- Do Not (and should not) read the passages in order.

### Technique

- Circle Birthday words (but, instead, rather, though, however, despite, although, yet) and underline the sentence.
- Circle dashes and underline the sentence containing the dash.
- Underline rhetorical questions.
- Underline what comes after a colon.
- Underline topic sentences
- Claim (main idea) is often in conclusion – focus on conclusion when skimming!
- As you read, *STAR* where you find the claim (or write the word CLAIM).

### Mental

Be a detective. Constantly be thinking:

- WHAT IS THE MAIN IDEA?
- WHAT IS THE TONE? Positive/Negative/Neutral/Persuasive/Angry....
- How is the main idea changing?
- What is this paragraph about?
- What does this line mean?
- Is this point important? How does it relate to the paragraph?

## Strategy

### (1) Prose Passage:

- Read passage first
- Find the characterization for each character and define in 3-6 words. Then go to questions
- Word choice important! Positive/negative
- **COST = Characterization, Overall, Structure, Tone**

### (3) Science/Social Science Passages:

- Three types of science passages: factual/study/social science
- **Three questions to ask for the STUDY: 1. What is study? 2. What is finding? 3. Tone**
- **Social Science – Main Idea in 3-6 words**
- Birthday words are KEY.
- Focus on intro/conclusion and topic sentences – especially for FACTUAL
- Might want to ZONE the FACTUAL Science\*(See SAT/ACT Reading Key Sheet)

### (1) Global Conversation/Founding Document/Speech

- Create a FRAME – read intro, topic sentences, conclusion. Then, go back and skim rest.
- **Three questions to ask: 1. What is ABSTRACT idea? 2. How does author view? 3. Why?**
- Think: Pro/Con, Good/Bad, For/Against and WHY
- Generating Main Idea before answering questions is KEY (See three questions above)
- Must Remember When Reading:
  - ✓ Circle *BIRTHDAY* words and underline the sentence the birthday word is found in. Circle dashes and colons and underline the sentence the dash and colon is found in. Underline *rhetorical questions* and the sentence after the question. When underlining, read sentence slowly and process its meaning. We suggest reading the sentence twice!
  - ✓ Focus on conclusion. Focus on conclusion. Focus on conclusion.

### (1) Double Passage

- Can be found in any of the passage types
- Read passage 1 and answer questions. Important to think MAIN IDEA and TONE
- Read passage 2. Before answering questions think MAIN IDEA AND TONE and how different from passage 1.
- Comparison Questions – all about main idea/tone

## Answering Multiple Choice Questions

1. **Slash/Burn** – slash the word/phrase that is incorrect within the question choice
2. **Arrow** – place an arrow next to the two or three choices remaining after slashing
3. **Touch** – after placing arrows, go back and touch each word within the answer choice
4. **First Word Answer Choices** – Note VERBS that begin answer choices.

## Answering Partner Questions (Evidence-based pairs)

The pair begins with a specific question about the passage and the second question always asks, “Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question.” Then, the four choices are line references within the passage.

### Steps for answering these pairs:

**Step 1:** Look at questions before reading passage. BOX the partner questions so that you know to answer together.

**Step 2:** Look at first question. Find the key word. Words such as ATTITUDE, response, motivation are key words.

**Step 2:** Go to the second question that references specific lines. Look for the line (answer choice) that reflects an ATTITUDE. This will be the answer.

**Step 3:** Now go to the first question and match the meaning of the line you picked for the 2<sup>nd</sup> question with one of the answer choices in the first question.

(Make sure to note the line references within the reading BEFORE answering these questions. Flipping back and forth distracts you from focusing on matching the key word to an appropriate line reference.

## Verbs

Understanding the **VERB** that begins an answer choice is imperative. Often the VERB choice indicates the answer and helps with the elimination process. Also, understanding the VERB within a partner question is imperative. Circle the **VERB** and use in the evidence question.

**Knowledge** – define, label, recall, draw, identify, sequence, find

**Comprehension** – explain, summarize, interpret, predict, tell, discuss, illustrate, demonstrate, generalize, identify, report

**Application** – apply, compute, choose, use, demonstrate, prepare, show, draw

**Analysis** – differentiate, contrast, deduce, classify, debate, research, distinguish, relate, compare, outline, characterize, analyze, discriminate, examine

**Synthesis** – create, design, propose, organize, construct, develop, plan, produce, compose, originate, integrate, rewrite, perform

**Evaluation** – judge, prove, decide, appraise, rank, criticize, prioritize, predict, rate, choose, evaluate, conclude, assess, justify, argue

## Tips

- Make sure that you read the introduction (italics at top) for every passage. Also, please take note of the title. This will introduce the main idea.
- Mapping (annotate) the passage may be helpful if it is very detail heavy. One or two words – not sentences!
- Make sure to read critically rather than just dissecting the whole passage. Begin each passage as a detective searching for the Main Point. What is the tone?
- Remember – the questions usually go in order. If the last question is a line reference from the beginning of the passage then it is probably a main idea question.
- Highlight PARTNER questions with a box before reading. When you get to Partner questions – STOP – note lines in the passage – and then answer according to the next bullet.
- PARTNER questions –Play Matching Game! Circle key words/verb in 1<sup>st</sup> question. Go to 2<sup>nd</sup> questions (line references) and MATCH what you circled. Once you find line reference, match to answer choice in first question.
- Charts and Graphs – figure out the “story” of the chart/graph before answering. If you are running out of time, do the chart/graph questions first.
- Do not do the readings in order. Do the “easiest” passage first and the “hardest” last!
- Bring in your background knowledge if you know the author of the Founding Document. Use this knowledge to help you find the main idea and tone of the passage. However, answer the questions based on the passage and not your background knowledge.