

UNIT 4

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- Reading and understanding: close reading
- Comprehension
- Summary
- Paraphrasing analysis and interpretation

Reading and understanding: close reading

- Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.
- **Close reading** is the careful, sustained interpretation of a brief passage of a text. A close reading emphasizes the single and the particular over the general, effected by close attention to individual words, the syntax, the order in which the sentences unfold ideas, as well as formal structures. A truly attentive close reading of a two-hundred-word poem might be thousands of words long without exhausting the possibilities for observation and insight.

COMPREHENSION

- **Reading comprehension** is the ability to process text, understand its meaning, and to integrate with what the reader already knows.
- Fundamental skills required in efficient reading comprehension are knowing meaning of words,
- ability to understand meaning of a word from discourse context,
- ability to follow organization of passage and to identify antecedents and references in it,
- ability to draw inferences from a passage about its contents, ability to identify the main thought of a passage,
- ability to answer questions answered in a passage, ability to recognize the literary devices or propositional structures used in a passage and
- determine its tone,
- to understand the situational mood (agents, objects, temporal and spatial reference points, casual and intentional inflections, etc.) conveyed for assertions, questioning, commanding, refraining etc. and
- finally ability to determine writer's purpose, intent and point of view, and draw inferences about the writer (discourse-semantics)

STRATEGIES FOR CRACKING READING COMPREHENSION PASSAGES

- Understand The Overall Idea of Passage
- Understanding The Context
- Understand What The Question Requires as an Answer
- Do Not Let Your Prior Knowledge of A Topic Decide Your Answer for a Question
- Identify How Passive Vocabulary is Used In The Sentence
- Don't Assume Things without a Proper Base

SUMMARY

- A **summary** is a **brief** statement or restatement of main points, especially as a conclusion to a work: a **summary** of a chapter. A **brief** is a detailed outline, by heads and subheads, of a discourse to be completed: a **brief** for an argument.

SUMMARY WRITING FORMAT

- When writing a summary, remember that it should be in the form of a paragraph.
- A summary begins with an introductory sentence that states the text's title, author and main point of the text as you see it.
- A summary is written in your own words.
- A summary contains only the ideas of the original text. Do not insert any of your own opinions, interpretations, deductions or comments into a summary.
- Identify in order the significant sub-claims the author uses to defend the main point.
- Copy word-for-word three separate passages from the essay that you think support and/or defend the main point of the essay as you see it.
- Cite each passage by first signaling the work and the author, put "quotation marks" around the passage you chose, and put the number of the paragraph where the passages can be found immediately after the passage.
- Using source material from the essay is important. Why? Because defending claims with source material is what you will be asked to do when writing papers for your college professors.
- Write a last sentence that "wraps" up your summary; often a simple rephrasing of the main point.

PARAPHRASING

- When you **paraphrase**, you use your own words to express something that was written or said by another person. Putting it into your own words can clarify the message, make it more relevant to your audience , or give it greater impact.

DO'S AND DON'T'S OF PARAPHRASING

- DO Understand When to Quote and When to Paraphrase

Paraphrasing is best used for long portions of text that you can synthesize in your own words. Think of paraphrasing as a form of translation; you are translating an idea in another "language" into your own language. The idea should be the same, but the words and sentence structure should be totally different.

- DO Understand the Purpose of Paraphrasing

If you think that paraphrasing is about rewriting ideas from someone else's work so that you can avoid thinking for yourself, you are mistaken. As a student or researcher, your job is to demonstrate that you understand the material you've read by expressing ideas from other sources in your own unique style, adding citations to the paraphrased material as appropriate. The purpose of paraphrasing is to draw together ideas from multiple sources to convey the information to your reader clearly and succinctly.

- DO Understand the Text You Are Paraphrasing

When you paraphrase, be sure that you understand the text clearly; otherwise, you could run the risk of relying on the original source text too closely. The whole point of paraphrasing is that you are interpreting the information you researched for your reader, explaining it as though you were speaking to a colleague or teacher. That is, paraphrasing is a skill that demonstrates one's understanding of a text.

- DON'T Copy without Quotation Marks

If you choose to keep a few phrases from the original source but paraphrase the rest (i.e., combining quoting and paraphrasing), that's okay, but keep in mind that phrasing from the source text must be "reproduced in an exact manner within quotation marks." Direct quotations are more than three consecutive words copied from another source, and they should always be enclosed in quotation marks or offset as a block quotation.

- DON'T Paraphrase Too Closely

When learning how to paraphrase, you need to distinguish between appropriate and inappropriate forms of paraphrasing.

STRATEGIES FOR PARAPHRASING

- Write down Paraphrases of a Source on Note Cards
- Paraphrase from Your Own Point-Form Notes on a Source
- Practice Two-Step Paraphrasing: Sentence Structure and Word Choice
- Use Synonyms and Different Sentence Structures.