READING CORE CONCEPTS

INTRODUCTION

Always first read the passage introduction to find out who, what, where, when, and why

MAP THE PASSAGE

You don't have to remember key details or themes, just where to find them

MAIN IDEA

Focus on identifying the main idea and refer back to the main idea when answering questions

STRATEGIZE

Find what works best for you (reading the questions first and then the passage or vice versa). If you choose to skim the passage, don't skim the questions

PRIMARY DEFINITIONS

Avoid primary definitions

ZOOM OUT

Zooming out will help you figure out the tone and main idea

TONE

The author's attitude (positive, negative, or neutral)

ELIMINATE

Avoid answers that are too specific, too broad, extreme, offensive, reverse relationship, opposite to or unrelated to the main idea

SPEED

To improve your reading speed and comprehension, read literature, newspaper articles, science journals, magazines, and historical texts

SKIP

- Save passages that seem confusing for last
- Answer line reference questions first if those are easier for you

"BUT"

Key information about the main idea usually comes after "but," "however," "although," etc.

DUAL PASSAGES

Answer dual passages one passage at a time

OWN WORDS

Cover the answer choices and first answer the question using your own words then pick the answer choice that best matches your idea

LINE REFERENCES

- Read before and after line references
- Plug in the line reference into the previous question to see which line fits best (for evidence questions

BOOKS TO READ

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