

## Reading Test Key Points

### *Passage Strategy*

1. Don't trust the order of the passages
  - a. "Readability"
    - i. If the first sentence or two seems old/hard to read, then skip it.
    - ii. If the first sentence or two seems okay to read (not necessarily "easy," but now awful either), then do it.
2. Read the background information
  - a. Plot summary
  - b. Title
  - c. Author
  - d. Copyright year
3. Read the passage first or the questions first?
  - a. Neither!
    - i. Skim through the questions
    - ii. Identify line numbers and mark them in the passage
    - iii. Read the passage, answering the line-specific questions as you go
    - iv. Answer questions about the whole passage once you have read the whole passage.

## *Questions and Answers Strategy*

### 1. ELIMINATE WRONG ANSWERS!

- a. On each question, don't necessarily focus on what you think is the right answer; rather, take what you do understand from the text and use that to eliminate wrong answers.
  - i. THIS IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT ON THE OLDER, HARD TO READ TEXTS.
    1. You may not understand the text completely (probably won't!), but you will understand enough to at least have an idea of what it is NOT.

### 2. Question/Evidence Follow-up Combo

- a. Read the question
- b. Look at the lines in the follow-up question, eliminating those that aren't answering or even addressing the previous question
  - i. If you eliminate 3 "evidence answer choices," then the remaining choice must be right.
    1. The information contained in that answer will give you the answer to the previous question.
  - ii. If you eliminate only two of the "evidence answers," then return to the previous question and eliminate anything you feel may be wrong.
    1. Using what you have left between the two questions, determine which ones "connect;" that is, which piece of evidence connects to which answer in the previous question.
- c. The main point here is this: DO THESE TWO QUESTIONS TOGETHER AT THE SAME TIME. Do NOT answer the first question without even looking at the evidence.

### 3. Main idea questions

- a. Add the word "entire" to the question to conceptualize it correctly.
  - i. The wrong answers will be in the text (some may be there word-for-word), but they don't apply to the ENTIRE passage.