

- # Eight Proven Strategies
- # to Boost Your SAT Reading
- *Presented by Performance Prep*

The Key to Success: Combining Proven Test Prep Strategies with Annotation, Evaluation, and Rhetorical Skills Practice!

1. Understand the Big Idea

The first paragraph will introduce the main idea. The conclusion paragraph will sum it up. Author's purpose is always a general statement, argument or question. Most correct answers are directly related and paraphrase the main idea.

2. Extract Key Details

Identify names, dates, people, events, settings, and conflicts. Science passages often introduce an experiment so review the scientific method. The big idea in history is individual rights for ALL people. (UNDERSTAND MORAL RIGHTS VS HUMAN RIGHTS.) The social sciences are often persuasive essays about the environment or the internet.

3. Evaluate Text Structure

Pay attention to the organization of the passage. What structure does the author use to convey his message: argument, cause and effect, sequential, problem and solution, or informational? How are the body paragraphs constructed to help support the main idea of the passage?

4. Focus On Transition Words

Watch for signal words like "BUT" that show a shift in direction, tone, or thinking. Whatever comes after the word "BUT" is usually what the author thinks and relates back to the main idea. Knowing transition words can definitely boost your score in reading and writing.

5. Observe Rhetorical Style

Pay attention to figurative and descriptive language, strong word choice, quotes, motifs, symbols, and characterization. Also, punctuation used stylistically, such as dashes, colons, and parenthesis, is another tool that authors use to create meaning.



6. Use Process of Elimination

Read the question carefully. Use Process of Elimination to cross out clearly wrong answers. The correct choice is the one that CANNOT be proven wrong. It may NOT be a "good" answer, but if it answers the question and is not wrong, it is the "right" answer.

7. Also: Eliminate Wrong Answer Choices That...

- Use words and phrases from the passage, but do not answer the question being asked.
- Are too extreme: answers that contain words like "Always," and "Never" are usually wrong answer choices.
- Could be TRUE, but there is no evidence in the passage to support this answer.

8. Read Paired Passages Separately

Paired passages have a common theme or subject but will either oppose, support or relate to each other in a subtle way. Read and answer the questions for the first passage before moving onto the second one.

