

# Tools for Reading Analysis

---

Use the following tools to help you  
analyze readings for better  
reading skills



# 1. Title

---

The first thing you need to look at is the article's title. It usually gives a clue of the main idea before you read it. When looking at the title, you should say see whether the title is appropriate.





## 2. Main Idea

---

Where can you find the main idea?

1. Look in the first paragraph first. If not, move on until before half way. Do not go to the conclusion for the main idea.
2. Look for the thesis statement.

Thesis statement – main idea sentence of an essay

- Direct – you can see a clear thesis statement
- Implied – there is not one sentence that indicates the main idea, but the main idea is understood.



# 3. Supporting Details

---

The main idea is supported by details. They include:

- Explanations (major supporting points)
- Examples (minor supporting points)
  - Facts
  - Quotations
  - Data
  - Anecdote
  - Statistics
  - Research findings
  - Expert opinions



## 4. Author

---

The author is the brain of any writing. It's important to understand who the author is by knowing the following information:

- Nationality/ethnic background
- Education
- Profession
- Life and work experience
- Expertise.

Knowing the author will give credibility to the reading, which means whether you can trust what you read or not.





## 5. Purpose

---

This means the intention the author has when he/she is writing the article. Ask these questions:

- Why does the author write about this subject?
- What does the author want to do with this essay?

Examples: to criticize, to inform, to describe, to comment on, to entertain, to teach, to raise awareness, to call for action, to introduce, to question, etc.



## 6. Tone

---

The tone is the writer's feeling about the subject written. The tone is reflected by the use of vocabulary.

Examples of tone:

humourous, angry, critical, upset, serious, happy, entertaining, happy, sad, judgemental, sarcastic, concerned, lighthearted, factual, formal, informal, professional, etc...



# 7. Audience

---

The readers are called audience. To understand audience, we need to look at:

- Where the article is published: country, city, publication (which newspaper, magazine...)
- Main idea of the reading

Two kinds of audience:

- Target: audience that the author has in mind (who is the author talking to?)
- Extended: Larger group, not intended (e.g. reading in a textbook)

There is no such a thing as written for everyone.





## 8. Vocabulary Used

---

Tells the tone.

How are the words used?

- Simple: easy, common, everyday words
- Difficult: hard words
- rare/unusual: words not usually seen in everyday life; foreign words
- Elephant: big words, long and hard to pronounce
- Jargon: words specific a particular profession



# 9. Structure

---

This refers to the sentence and paragraph structures and the relationship between paragraphs.

Pay attention to:

- Length and types of sentences
- Length of paragraph
- How are points organized
- Relationships between one paragraph with another



# 10. W5 Questions

---

Ask:

WHAT: What is it about? What does the writer want to do?

WHEN: When was it published? When did the incident/situation happen?

WHO: Who is the author? Who is the audience? Who is being described?

WHERE: Where was it published? Where did the incident happen?

WHY: Why did the author write about this?





# 11. Patterns of Organization

## (The kinds of essays)

---

- Narration and Description
- Cause and Effect
- Illustration
- Comparison and Contrast
- Classification
- Process
- Definition
- Argument and Persuasion

