

# READING PLACEMENT TEST PREPARATION

## Skill: Determining Main Ideas

The main idea is the most important idea in reading. It is also called the author's point. The main idea statement covers all the major details.

### Reading for the Main Idea

### Supporting Details

## Skill: What is the Author's Purpose?

### An Introduction to Purpose and Tone

## Skill: Making Inferences

### How to Make an Inference

## Skill: Recognizing Patterns of Organization

### Patterns of Organization and Their Clue Words

### Patterns of Organization Practice 1

### Patterns of Organization Practice 2

## Skill: Determining Relationships between Sentences & Within Sentences

### Some Common English Transition Words and Phrases

### Transition Words and Phrases

### Transitional Words & Phrases

## Skill: Determining Bias

**Bias** is when a statement reflects a **partiality, preference, or prejudice** for or against a person, object, or idea. Much of what you read and hear expresses a bias. Bias is when a writer or speaker uses a selection of facts, choice of words, and the quality and tone of description, to convey a particular feeling or attitude. Its purpose is to convey a certain attitude or point of view toward the subject.

As you read or listen to biased materials, keep the following questions in mind:

What facts has the author omitted?

What additional information is necessary?

What words create positive or negative impressions?

What impression would I have if different words had been used?

Biased information tries to change your mind, how you think. Being aware of and knowing how to identify, analyze, and assimilate biased information properly is a skill to be treasured. It puts you in charge of how you think instead of the print and media world.

## Reading for Thinking – Online Practice

### Recognizing Purpose and Bias

#### Skill: Determining Fact & Opinion

A **fact** is an actual thing that exists and is provable, observable, and measurable. A discussion of a fact might include the following: numbers, corroborate, statistics, record, verified, substantiate, document, prove, eyewitness, photographs.

Facts are certainties.

An opinion is a personal belief or judgment that is not founded on proof or certainty.

Opinions are debatable.

### Distinguishing Between Fact and Opinion Practice

#### Skill: Determining the Implied Main Idea

The implied main idea is not stated. Determining the author's point is similar to making inferences. In this type of question, the reader determines the author's point by identifying the topic and the major details.

Ask yourself what the author is telling you through these details?

What do they have in common?

What is the common thread?

### How to Make an Inference

#### Implied Main Idea, Exercise 1

### How to Find the Implied Main Idea

#### Skill: Determining the Meaning from Context

##### Using Context Clues

Skill: Determining Author's Tone

An Introduction to Purpose and Tone