

Five-S Strategy for Passage Analysis

Goal: Use the Five-S Strategy to analyze text for an interpretive understanding.

1. Sentences

- Preview the passage to get an overview of the text.
 - Read the first and last sentences.
 - Skim the text.
 - Determine key sentences.

2. Speaker

- Analyze the text for the speaker's point of view and attitude.
 - Can you trust the speaker?
 - How many speakers are there?
 - What kind of speaker – narrator in first person (narrator as major character, narrator as minor character), third person (omniscient, limited omniscient, or objective)?
 - What is the speaker's attitude/tone?

3. Situation

- Read the text for main idea.
 - What is happening?
 - What motivated the writer to write?
 - Why the title?

4. Shifts

- Find the part(s) of the text that has the most changes. Notice and note...
 - Structure
 - Syntax: length, rhythm, punctuation
 - Diction
 - Tone
 - Imagery
 - Reason for shift/s

5. Syntax

- Find the part of the text that conveys the most meaning – the crux. Notice and note...
 - Sentence length
 - Sentence order
 - Sentence patterns
 - Punctuation: dashes, questions, parentheses
 - Typographical elements: italics, bold, caps