

ONLINE READING COMPREHENSION LAB



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Annotating an Essay or Book

Shared Traits of Essays & Books:

Thesis-Oriented

• Common Structure (Introduction, Body, Conclusion)

Stated Thesis =

Thesis that is explicitly stated in the text

Three Strategies for Discovering the Implied Thesis

Word or Phase + Key Sentence = THESIS

Key Sentence + Key Sentence = THESIS

Summarize important ideas into a one-sentence
thesis statement

Implied Thesis =

A thesis that is not directly stated

What to look for in an essay or book:

Find these 5 things:

- 1. Find the stated thesis
- 2. Find the implied thesis
- 3. Identify topic sentences
- 4. Identify key supporting details
- 5. Identify transitional words and phrases

Find the stated thesis | Identify transitional words and phrases | Identify key supporting details |

Supporting Details May Include:

Facts

Figures & Statistics

Quotations or Paraphrases



Personal Experiences



Types of Transitional Words & Phrases:

- Example
 - (e.g. for example, for instance)
- Time or Sequence
 - o (e.g. first, second)
- Comparison
 - (e.g. however, on the other hand)
- Concession
 - o (e.g. admittedly, granted)
- Addition
 - o (e.g. furthermore, in addition)

- Cause and Effect
 - (e.g. as a result, consequently)
- Conclusion
 - o (e.g. therefore, in conclusion)
- Summary
 - (e.g. in summary, in other words)

Clues to help you find the topic sentence:

- Look for a title or heading that indicates the topic
- 2. Look for a word, name, or phrase in the paragraph that appears in special print
- 3. Look for a word, name, or phrase that is repeated throughout the paragraph
- 4. Look for a word, name, or phrase referred to through the paragraph by pronouns or other words



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