

TLC Analysis Strategies

You are a hard-working student. You read all the pages of a reading. You use a dictionary and look up many words you don't know. You highlight sentences you think might be important. You read it again, look up more words, highlight more sentences. You spend some hours and you understand some things.

But you can be more successful – much faster and more easily. Don't read. Analyze. Two hours of analysis can help more than many hours of reading. Understand more. Know what is important.

Analyze *the work*

Don't look at the reading. Look at study guides, questions, homework tasks, and essay assignments. Your instructor analyzed the reading to create them. Analyze them. Find the topic and important ideas, predict patterns, predict answers, make other questions. After that, *then* look at the reading.

Analyze *the reading*

Find the topic. Jump your eyes around the reading for two minutes. What words are repeated most? Don't read sentences. Just look for repeated words (on every page). Stop. Turn the reading over (don't look at it). Write down the repeated words you remember (for example: language, men, private, women). Do it again. Write a few more. What's the topic? Guess. It is one word.

Make some simple sentences. Use the words you wrote down and make some very simple sentences with SVX grammar (subject + verb + something). Use *and, so, because, when, but*, etc. Subject = people, as much as possible. Don't worry if you are correct. (e.g. Women use language. Men are quiet at home. They use language differently. Women don't talk in public, but men do.)

Predicted pattern

men	women
how they talk	how they talk
a)	a)
b)	b)
c)	c)
why they talk	why they talk
reason 1	reason 1
reason 2	reason 2
reason 3	reason 3
talkative vs. quiet	talkative vs. quiet
at home in public	at home in public

Predict patterns. Don't look at the reading. Look at the repeated words and simple sentences you wrote. Guess ways the reading might be organized: sections, beginnings, endings, examples, parallels, reasons, compare/contrast, causes/effects, problems/solutions, processes, sequences.

Make questions. Don't look at the reading. Look at the topic, and the words and sentences you wrote. As you predict patterns, also make questions. Do men and women talk differently? How? Why do they talk? They are quiet – when, where, why? At home? In public? So?

Find patterns & answers to questions. Look at the reading. Don't read many sentences. Don't use a dictionary. Check titles, beginnings and endings. Find patterns. This paragraph is about men? Women? Compare with your predicted pattern. Find and mark examples. Use parallels and other patterns to find hows and whys, and answers to questions. Takes notes. Don't highlight. Every few minutes stop and make simple sentences about the information you are finding. Find connections (so, but, etc.).

Decide the main idea of the article. Write it down. It is one simple SVX sentence.

Read parts you know are important. As you read, explain it to yourself with simple SVX grammar.