

Specific Things to Observe

Key Words	When you first read look for key words, word that you think are important to the passage. Repetition of words will sometimes help you identify them. Underline them. Each word gets a different color
Advice, Admonitions Warnings Promises	Be alert to what the passage tells you to do. Commands, Advice, Admonitions, Warnings, Promises and Encouragement. Look for Imperative verbs.
Reasons for doing things Results for doing things	When the passage counsels you to do something, does the passage of a reason for this advice? Or is there a cause and effect relationship. If you do this, this will happen. Often with warnings there will be results listed
Contrasts Comparisons Illustrations	Make special note of the way the passage uses contrasts, comparisons, illustrations to develop the ideas. Comparison associate's things that are similar. Contrasts associate things that are opposite often introduced with "but"
Repetition Progression of ideas	Be on the alert for repetition of words, ideas or phrases. This will give you an idea as to the purpose of the passage. Take special note of images, how do they develop the ideas. Is there an order? How do the ideas build to a key idea or point?
Questions	Watch for how questions are used. Is it used to introduce an idea? Is a question used to summarize an idea or to challenge thinking?
Important Connectives Presuppositions Conjunctions	Connectives are important in revealing But-introduces contrast If- introduces a conditional clause For, before, therefore- introduce reason and results In into, with- important connectives In order that- sets forth a purpose
Grammatical Construction verbs\nouns/ pronouns/adverbs adjectives	The term grammar may worry you. Fight that fear. How statements are constructed tells us a lot. Watch for verbs and their tenses. How are pronouns used. Watch for the use of verbs and adverbs and how they describe things
Atmosphere Emphatic Statements	What is the tone of a passage? What is the mood? Caution, humble, joyful, thanksgiving, zeal, anger, concern, encouragement commanding? Or other? The tone may shift through a passage, what does that indicate? How does the author use emphatic statements, words or phrases to reveal his feelings?
Literary Form	Always note the literary form: discourse, narrative, poetic, dramatic, parable, apocalyptic,. Is the writer using literal or figurative terms
General Structure When done note if it was summarized with a general statement	Note the arrangement of ideas in a passage, the relationship of verses and sections to one another. Sometimes the author makes a general statement and then explains with examples. Other times he may list a series of ideas.