Boardworks High School English

Analyzing Informational Texts 1

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Information





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College and Career Readiness Standards for Reading:

1. Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

2. Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

3. Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.











All informational texts are written for a purpose. Most are written to:

- inform the reader of a subject
- persuade by sharing a perspective about a subject
- entertain the audience.

If these pictures accompanied a newspaper article, what could you infer about the purpose of the article? Would the article be informative, persuasive or entertaining?



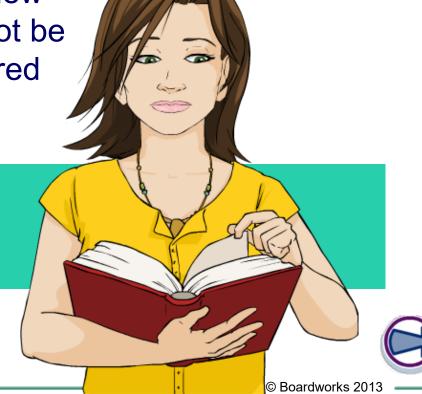




Some information is said explicitly in a text. The words mean exactly what they say. These are facts that are presented to the reader.

Other information, usually revealing the author's opinion or point of view about the subject, may or may not be explicitly stated, but can be inferred by analyzing the language.

What problems might inferring cause when interpreting an informational text?







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Fact or opinion?





Factual or opinionated





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You can use explicit information and the author's inferred point of view to determine the central idea of a text.

Use the following strategies to help identify the central idea.

- Look at the pictures and graphics and ask yourself what message they convey.
- Turn the title of the piece into a question and answer it.
- Read the first and last sentence of each paragraph.





Try to summarize the central idea in one to three sentences. If this is difficult, try to answer these five questions first, and then consolidate your answer into a summary.







Structure











Informational text bingo





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