

Scaffolding Comprehension of Informational Text:

Responding to the Demands of the Common Core State Standards

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Reading Comprehension:

**Before Reading
During Reading
After Reading**

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Preview - Before Reading Strategies

- Teach the pronunciation and meaning of critical, unknown **vocabulary** words
- Review, teach or activate any necessary **background knowledge**
- **Preview** the text

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Before Reading - Vocabulary

- “direct vocabulary instruction has an impressive track record of improving students’ background knowledge and comprehension of academic content” Marzano, 2001, p. 69
- .97 effect size for direct teaching of vocabulary related to content Stahl & Fairbanks, 1986

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Before Reading - Vocabulary

- Limit number of words given in depth instruction to 4 to 5 words (Robb, 2003)
 - Unknown
 - Critical to text comprehension
 - Useful in the future
 - More difficult

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Before Reading - Vocabulary

Step 1. Introduce the word.

- a) Write the word on the board or overhead.
 - b) Read the word and have the students repeat the word.
 - c) Have students tap out the syllables in the word.
 - d) Have students read the word by parts as you loop under the word.
 - e) Have students repeat the pronunciation of the word.
- (If the word is difficult to pronounce or unfamiliar have the students repeat the word a number of times.)

Introduce the word with me.

This word is **suffrage**. What word? suffrage
 Tap and say the parts of the word. suf frage
 Read the word by parts. suf frage
 What word? suffrage
Suffrage is a noun.

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Before Reading - Vocabulary

Step 2. Introduce meaning of word.

Option # 1. Present a student-friendly explanation.

- a) Tell students the explanation. OR
- b) Have them read the explanation with you.

Present the definition with me.

When someone has **suffrage**, they have the right to vote in an election.

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Before Reading - Vocabulary

Step 2. Introduce meaning of word.

Option # 2. Have students locate the definition in the glossary or text and break the definition into the critical attributes.

Glossary: **Suffrage** - the right to vote

suffrage
 - the right
 - to vote

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Before Reading - Vocabulary

Step 2. Introduce meaning of word.

Option # 3. Introduce the word using the meaningful parts in the word.

autobiography
 auto = self
 bio = life
 graph = letters, words, or pictures

hydroelectricity
 hydro = water

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Common Latin and Greek Roots

aqua	water	Greek	aquarium, aqueduct, aquaculture, aquamarine, aquaplane, aquatic
aud	hearing	Latin	audio, audition, audiovisual, auditorium, audiotape, inaudible
auto	self	Greek	autograph, autobiography, automobile, autocrat, autonomy
astro	star	Greek	astronomy, astrophysics, astrology, astronaut, astronomer, asterisk
biblio	book	Greek	Bible, bibliography, bibliophobia, bibliophile, biblioklept
bio	life	Greek	biography, biology,autobiography, bionic, biotic, antibiotic, biome, biosphere, biometrics
chrono	time	Greek	synchronize, chronology,chronic, chronicle, anachronism
corp	body	Latin	corpse, corporation, corps,incorporate, corporeal, corpulence
demo	the people	Greek	democracy, demography,epidemic, demotic, endemic, pandemic
dic, dict	speak, tell	Latin	dictate, dictation, diction, dictator, verdict, predict, contradict, benediction, jurisdiction, predict, indict, edict
dorm	sleep	Latin	dormant, dormitory, dormer, dormouse, dormition, dormitive
geo	earth	Greek	geology, geologist, geometry, geography, geographer, geopolitical, geothermal, geocentric

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Common Latin and Greek Roots

graph	to write, to draw	Greek	autograph, biography, photograph, telegraph, lithograph
hydro	water	Greek	hydroplane, dehydrate, hydroelectric, hydrogen, hydrophone
ject	throw	Latin	reject, deject, project, inject, injection, projection
logos, logy	study	Greek	geology, astrology, biology, numerology, zoology, technology, psychology, anthropology, mythology
luna	moon	Latin	lunar, lunacy, lunatic, interlunar
meter	measure	Greek	meter, thermometer, diameter, geometry, optometry, barometer centimeter, symmetry, voltammeter
mega	great, large, big	Greek	megaphone,megalith, megalomania, megatons, megalopolis
min	small, little	Latin	minimal, minimize, minimum, mini, miniature, minuscule, minute, minority
mit, mis	send	Latin	mission, transmit, transmission, remit, missile,submission, permit, emit, emissary
path	feeling, suffering	Greek	pathetic, pathology, apathy, antipathy, sympathy, telepathy, empathy, sociopath
ped	foot	Latin	pedestrian, pedal, peddle, peddler, pedicure, pedometer
philia	love, friendship	Greek	philosopher, Philadelphia, philanthropist, philharmonic,philip

Common Latin and Greek Roots

phono	sound	Greek	phonograph, microphone, symphony, telephone, phonogram, megaphone, phony, euphony, xylophone, phony.
photo	light	Greek	photograph, photosynthesis, telephoto, photometer, photophilia
port	carry	Latin	port, transport, transportation, portable, portage, report
spect	see	Latin	respect, inspection, inspector, spectator, spectacles, prospect
scope	look at	Greek	microscope, telescope, periscope, kaleidoscope, episcopal
sol	sun	Latin	solar, solar system, solstice, solarium, parasol
struct	build, form	Latin	instruct, instruction, construction, reconstruction, destruct, destruction, infrastructure, construe, instrument, instrumental
tele	distant	Greek	telephone, television, telegraph, telephoto, telescope, telepathy, telethon, telegenic
terra	land	Latin	territory, terrestrial, terrace, terrarium, extraterrestrial, Mediterranean Sea, terra cotta, subterranean

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Before Reading - Vocabulary

Step 3. Illustrate the word with examples.

- Concrete examples
 - objects
 - acting out
- Visual examples
- Verbal examples

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Before Reading - Vocabulary

Suffrage Examples

When the United States was founded only white men with property had suffrage.

At the time of the American Civil War, most white men had been granted suffrage.

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Before Reading - Vocabulary

Suffrage Examples

In 1920, women were granted suffrage. The passage of the Nineteenth Amendment granted women the right to vote in all United States elections.



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Before Reading - Vocabulary

Suffrage Examples

The *Voting Rights Act of 1965* outlawed discriminatory voting practices that denied **suffrage** to many African Americans in the United States.



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Before Reading - Vocabulary

Step 4. Check students' understanding.
Option #1. Ask deep processing questions.

Check students' understanding with me.

Why is suffrage a critical aspect of a democracy?

Begin by saying or writing:

Suffrage is a critical aspect of democracy for the following reasons. First, _____

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Before Reading - Vocabulary

Step 4. Check students' understanding.
Option #2. Have students discern between examples and non-examples.

Check students' understanding with me.

Tell me **suffrage** or **not suffrage**.

The right to run for elected office. **not suffrage** Why not?

The right to vote. **suffrage** Why?

The right to develop ads for a candidate. **not suffrage** Why not?

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Before Reading - Vocabulary

Step 4. Check students' understanding.
Option #3. Have students generate their own examples.

Check students' understanding with me.

Make a list of ways that **suffrage** could be limited or compromised.

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Before Reading - Vocabulary

suffrage noun
suffragist noun



In 1917, all women in the United States did not have **suffrage**, the right to vote. **Suffragists** in New York City collected more than a million signatures of women demanding voting rights. They then paraded down Firth Avenue with the signature placards.

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Background Knowledge - What

- ...what one already knows about a subject.
Stevens, 1980
- ...all the knowledge learners have when entering a learning environment that is potentially relevant for acquiring new knowledge.
Biemans & Simons, 1996

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Background Knowledge - Why

- Background knowledge of text has a major impact on whether or not a reader can comprehend text.
Anderson & Pearson, 1984; Bransford, Stein, & Shelton, 1984; Wilson & Anderson, 1986
- Across grades and reading ability, prior knowledge of subject area and key vocabulary results in higher scores on reading comprehension measures.
Langer, 1984; Long, Winograd, & Bridget, 1989; Stevens, 1980

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Background Knowledge - Why

- Average correlation between person's background knowledge of a given topic and extent to which a person learns new information is .66. Marzano, 2004

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Teach Background Knowledge

BIG IDEA

Even a thin slice of background knowledge is useful.

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Teach Background Knowledge

Preparation

1. What is critical?
2. What information would ease acquisition of new knowledge?
3. What information would reduce cognitive overload?
4. What information will increase interest and motivation?

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Teach Background Knowledge

Anchor Instruction in:

- Supplementary Informational Text
- Power-point
- Visuals
- Video

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Chapter 11

The Jackson Era 1824-1845

Section 1

Jacksonian Democracy

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Main Idea

The political system of the United States changed under Andrew Jackson.

As you read, ask yourself:

What changes in the political system of the United States occurred under Andrew Jackson?

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Andrew Jackson

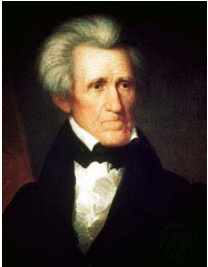
Background knowledge

President

- 7th President
- 1829 - 1837

Early Life

- Parents emigrated from Ireland
- Father died before his birth
- Mother died when he was 14
- Two brothers also died




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Andrew Jackson

Background knowledge

Career - Military

- At 13 joined Continental Army
- Major General of Tennessee Militia
- Lead campaign against Creek Indians in Georgia
- In 1815 lead military victory over British at the Battle of New Orleans



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Andrew Jackson

Background knowledge

Career - Politician

- Lawyer
- US Representative
- US Senator
- Circuit Judge
- President




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Andrew Jackson

Background knowledge

Personal Life

- Married Rachel Jackson
- Two adopted children
- Owned large cotton plantation with 150 slaves
- Killed man in pistol duel



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Preview - Informational Passage

As the student previews, he/she discovers:

- the topics to be **covered**,
- the information that will be **emphasized**,
- how the material is **organized**.

In addition, background knowledge is **activated**.

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Preview - Informational Passage

- Guide students in previewing the chapter and formulating a topical outline using the **text structure**: title, introduction, headings, subheadings, questions.
- Has students preview the selection independently, with his/her partner, or with team members.

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Preview - Informational Passage

Warm-Up

Before you read a chapter or a section of a chapter in your science, social studies, or health book, Warm-up. Get an idea of the chapter's content by previewing these parts.

BEGINNING

- Title
- Introduction

MIDDLE

- Headings
- Subheadings

END

- Summary
- Questions

Curriculum Associates, Skills for School Success

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Jacksonian Democracy

- The Election of 1824**
 - Striking a Bargain
 - The Adams Presidency
- The Election of 1828**
 - Jackson Triumphs
- Jackson as President**
 - "Old Hickory"
 - New Voters
 - The Spoils System
 - Electoral Changes

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Preview - During Reading Strategies

- Utilize passage **reading procedures** that provide adequate reading practice
- **Ask appropriate questions** during passage reading
- Have students **generate questions**
- Teach **text structure strategies** that can be applied to passage reading

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Comprehension- Informational Text Reading

- **Read**
- **Stop**
- **Respond**
 - answer teacher questions
 - generate questions/answer questions
 - verbally retell content
 - "Paragraph shrinking"
 - mark text
 - take notes
 - map/web content

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During Passage Reading

Read
Stop
Respond

- Teacher Asks Questions
- Students Answer Questions

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During Passage Reading - Ask Questions

Asking questions. A evidence-based, time honored procedure

The teacher asks questions to guide and monitor students' comprehension

(Ambruster, Lehr, & Osborn, 2001; National Reading Panel, 2000; McKeown, Beck, & Blake, 2009)

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During Reading - Ask Questions

The Teacher-Generated Questions

- Divide the material into appropriate segments.
- Develop questions on the content, focusing on the **most important** understanding that students should construct.

OR

Curriculum Questions

- Ask questions provided by the curriculum material.

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During Reading - Ask Questions

1. Ask **text-dependent** questions
 - The student must read the text to respond to the question
2. Ask **higher order** questions
 - Inferences, predictions, comparisons, summaries
3. Scaffold higher order questions with **foundation** questions on key details
4. Scaffold answers with **sentence starters**
5. Use appropriate **active participation** procedures for asking questions

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During Reading - Scaffold Higher Order Questions

- If the question is a difficult, higher order question, scaffold (support) the students' performance
- Provide a verbal or written sentence starter
- Ask lower order (literal) questions **first** to establish a foundation on which higher order responses can be based

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During Reading - Scaffold Higher Order Questions

Elementary Example

Support student responding by providing **sentence starters** (stems).

In what ways are emperor penguins different from other birds you know about?

Begin by saying:

Emperor penguins are different from other birds in a number of ways. First,

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During Reading - Scaffold Higher Order Questions

Scaffolding Questions:

Can penguins fly?
Does the mother or the father penguin sit on the egg to keep it warm?
Does the father penguin stay alone or with a group?

Big Question to be asked:

In what ways are emperor penguins different from other birds you know about?

Begin by saying:

Emperor penguins are different from other birds in a number of ways. First,

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During Reading - Scaffold Higher Order Questions

(Secondary Example)

Scaffolding Questions

How many political parties were there in 1824?
Four men in the party ran for president. Did Andrew Jackson get a majority of votes?
Which of the 4 candidates received the most votes?
Who did the House of Representatives select as president?
Who helped Adams to be elected as president?
What position in the government was Clay given?

Big Question to be asked:

Why were Adams and Clay accused of making a "corrupt bargain" (stealing the election)?

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During Reading - Ask Questions

Procedure for asking students questions on text material.

Saying answer to partner (Partners First)

1. Ask a **question**
2. Give students **thinking time or writing time**
3. Provide a verbal or written **sentence starter or paragraph frame**
4. Have students share answers with their **partners** using the sentence starter
5. Call on a student to give answer
6. Engage students in a **discussion**

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During Passage Reading

Read
Stop
Respond

- Students generate questions
- Students answer questions

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During Reading - Students generate and answer questions

Student-Generated Questions based on Headings and Subheadings

1. Read the heading or subheading.
2. Generate one or two questions .
3. Read the section.
4. Answer the question.

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Classifying Rocks

Question	Answer
How do you classify rocks?	Rocks are classified by mineral composition, color, and texture.
How are rocks classified?	

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How Rocks Form

Question	Answer
Igneous rocks How do igneous rocks form?	
Sedimentary rocks How do sedimentary rocks form?	
Metamorphic rocks How do metamorphic rocks form?	

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How Rocks Form

Question	Answer
Igneous rocks	Igneous rocks are formed when magma or lava cools.
Sedimentary rocks	
Metamorphic rocks	

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During Passage Reading

Read
Stop
Respond

- Students create main idea statements
- Students respond to teacher or partner questions

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During Reading - Students generate main idea statements

Paragraph Shrinking

1. Name the who or what.
(The main person, animal, or thing.)
2. Tell the most important thing about the who or what.
3. Say the main idea in 10 words or less.

(Optional: Record your main idea sentence.)

(From the PALS program by Fuchs, Mathes, and Fuchs)

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During Reading - Paragraph Shrinking (I do it.)

The Coldest Continent

Antarctica is not like any other continent. It is as far south as you can go on earth. The South Pole is found there. Ice covers the whole land. In some places the ice is almost three miles thick. Beneath the ice are mountains and valleys.

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During Reading - Paragraph Shrinking (We do it.)

The weather in Antarctica is harsh. It is the coldest place on Earth. The temperature does not get above freezing. It is also one of the windiest places in the world.

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During Reading - Paragraph Shrinking (You do it.)

Not many living things are found in Antarctica. People go there to study for only a short time. Very few animals can live there. Yet many animals live on nearby islands. Seals and penguins swim in the ocean waters. They build nests on the land. Some birds spend their summers in Antarctica. But most of the continent is just ice, snow, and cold air.

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During Passage Reading

Read
Stop
Respond

- Students "mark" the text
- Students write notes in the margins

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During Reading - Students "mark" the text

1. Number the paragraphs
2. Circle the topic and/or key terms
3. Underline the author's claims or other critical information

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During Reading - Students write notes in the margins

- Notes in the margin might include:
 - A drawing to illustrate a point
 - A summary of the content
 - Key vocabulary terms and definitions
 - Responses to interesting information, ideas, or claims

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During Passage Reading

Read Stop Respond

- Students take notes
- Students map/web the content

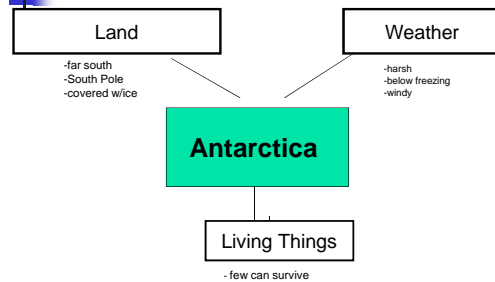
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During Reading - Students take two column notes

Antarctica	- far south continent
	- South Pole
	- Covered with ice
Weather	- Harsh
	- Below Freezing
	- Windy
Living Things	- Few
	Antarctica, the most southern continent, has very harsh weather and is covered in ice. Few living things survive on Antarctica.

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During Reading - Students map or web the content



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Preview - After Reading Strategies

- Have students complete or generate graphic organizers that summarize critical information
- Have students write in response to a passage:
 - Summary
 - Compare and Contrast
 - Opinion

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After Reading - Graphic Organizers

The teacher:

- Provides students with a **graphic organizer** that reflects the structure of the text material
 - Central Idea
 - Hierarchy
 - Compare/Contrast
 - Sequence of Events
 - Cause/Effect
 - Problem/Solution

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After Reading - Graphic Organizers

- After completing the graphic organizer, students:
 - **Teach** the content on the graphic organizer to their partners
 - Use the graphic organizer as a support during **class discussions**
 - Write a **summary** of the content based on the graphic organizer

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Write a Summary - Writing Frames

Antarctica is the coldest continent on the earth.
The land is covered with _____.
_____ The temperature stays below _____ and the _____ constantly blow. Because of these conditions, not many _____ things are found on this continent.

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Write a Summary - Writing Frames

Summary of Informational Text

Chapter: _____ Topic: _____

- In this section of the chapter, a number of critical points were made about ...
- First, the authors pointed out that...
- This was important because...
- Next, the authors mentioned that...
- Furthermore, they indicated...
- This was critical because...
- Finally, the authors suggested that...

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Write a Summary - Writing Frames

Chapter: *Drifting Continents* Topic: *Wegener's Theory*

- In this section of the chapter, a number of critical points were made about *Alfred Wegener's theory of continental drift*. First, the authors pointed out that *Wegener believed that all the continents were once joined together in a single land mass that he called Pangaea that drifted apart forming the continents of today*. This was important because *it explained why the outline of the continents as they are today fit together*. Next, the authors mentioned that *Wegener argued that there were many pieces of evidence supporting his theory of continental drift*. Furthermore, they indicated that *Wegener used evidence of similar landforms and fossils on different continents to prove his theory*. This was critical because *this evidence could be validated by other scientists*. Finally, the authors suggested that *despite this evidence, other scientists did not accept Wegener's theory because he could not explain the force that pushes and pulls the continents*.

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Write a Summary - Writing Frames

Summary of Opinion Article

- Name of Article:...
- Author: ...
- Topic: ...
- In this article, _____ discusses...
- The author's primary claim is that
- First, she/he states....
- She/he then points out that ...
- In addition, _____, indicates that....
- Finally, she/he conclude....

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Write a Summary - Writing Frames

Summary of Opinion Article

- Name of Article:...
- Author: ...
- Topic: ...
- In this article, _____ discusses...
- The author's primary claim is that
- First, she/he states....
- She/he then points out that ...
- In addition, _____, indicates that....
- Finally, she/he conclude....

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Write a Summary - Writing Frames

Name of Article: *The Writing Revolution*
Magazine/Journal: *the Atlantic* (September, 2012)
Author: Peg Tyre
Topic: Writing Instruction

In this article, Peg Tyre discusses *writing instruction in today's schools*. The author's primary claim is that *a return to traditional, explicit instruction on the fundamentals of writing could be the answer to poor writing exhibited in schools*. First, she states that *teachers at New Dorp High School determined that their students poor performance was due to the fact that they could not express their ideas on paper*. She then points out that *when New Dorp adopted intense, explicit instruction on the skills of analytic writing, test scores and graduation rates improved*. In addition, Tyre indicates that *thinking, speaking, and reading skills are strengthened through writing instruction*. Finally, she concludes that *a return to traditional writing instruction may be the key to improving the writing skills of failing students*.

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Write a Summary - Strategy

Write down the topic of the summary.

- List** - Make a list of important ideas.
- Cross-out** - Cross out any unnecessary or weak ideas.
- Connect** - Connect ideas that could go in one sentence.
- Number** - Number the ideas in the order that they will appear in the paragraph.

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List - Make a list of important ideas.

Penquin' s birth

- Male takes care of egg
- Female lays egg
- Female leaves
- Female spends winter at sea
- The water is very cold
- Male puts egg on his feet under belly
- Male stays on egg for two months
- Male doesn' t eat
- Egg hatches
- Male must care for baby

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Cross-out - Cross out any unnecessary or weak ideas.

Connect - Connect ideas that could go in one sentence.

Penquin' s birth

- Male takes care of egg
- Female lays egg
- Female leaves
- Female spends winter at sea
- ~~The water is very cold~~
- Male puts egg on his feet under belly
- Male stays on egg for two months
- Male doesn' t eat
- Egg hatches
- Male must care for baby

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Number - Number the ideas in the order that they will appear in the paragraph.

Penquin' s birth

- 3 Male takes care of egg
- 1 Female lays egg
- 2 Female leaves
- Female spends winter at sea
- ~~The water is very cold~~
- 4 Male puts egg on his feet under belly
- Male stays on egg for two months
- 5 Male doesn' t eat
- Egg hatches
- 6 Male must care for baby

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Write a summary - Strategy

The birth process of penguins is fascinating and quite different from that of other animals. The female penguin lays an egg. However, the female penguin leaves soon after laying the egg and spends the winter in the sea. Meanwhile the male must take care of the egg. For two months, he places the egg on his feet under his belly. During this time, the male penguin doesn' t eat. Even after the baby penguin hatches, the male penguin continues to take care of the infant penguin.

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