



Reading Like a Writer

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:

- Summarize central ideas or themes of texts
- Identify key supporting details and ideas in a text
- Make inferences and draw conclusions using explicit information from the text or graphic(s)
- Determine an author's purpose or point of view in a text and its impact on the text
- Explain how the structure of a word, paragraph, section, or passage shapes meaning, emphasizes key ideas, or supports an author's purpose

Reading for Central Ideas & Themes

The **central idea** or **theme** of a passage is the “what” the author wants the reader to understand. You may be asked to restate or summarize the central idea or theme on the GED RLA Test.

As you read the passage, take note of:

- topic sentences
- transitions and relationships
- supporting details

Utilizing Topic Sentences

In nonfiction and informational texts, the **topic sentence**—or first sentence—of a paragraph introduces the main idea or subject that the author will discuss in the paragraph.

As you read the topic sentence, anticipate what the author will discuss in the following paragraph.

In Canton, Ohio, we take our desserts seriously. There are two local candy stores that receive over 90 percent of the city's candy business: Heggy's and Baldwin's. Those who prefer Heggy's won't befriend anyone who buys their sweets at Baldwin's.

This paragraph will explain what the author means by "taking desserts seriously."

Supporting Details

A writer explains the main idea of a passage with supporting details. **Supporting details** include facts, examples, descriptions, and/or specific pieces of information.

As you read, identify details that support the main idea.

In Canton, Ohio, we take our desserts seriously. There are two local candy stores that receive over 90 percent of the city's candy business: Heggy's and Baldwin's. Those who prefer Heggy's won't befriend anyone who buys their sweets at Baldwin's.

The strong preference for either Heggy's or Baldwin's supports the authors assertion that desserts are taken seriously.

Inferences

An **inference** is something that the author does not directly state in the passage but must be true given what is stated. An inference is based on the information you are given combined with what you have learned from the world about the way things happen or the way people act.

What can you infer about why the park is calming for the puppy?

To calm our puppy down, we head to the park for one hour of exercise with the other neighborhood dogs.

The author states that they take the puppy to exercise at the park to calm him down, so you can infer that the puppy was likely full of energy and that exercise makes the puppy tired, which calms him down.

Drawing Conclusions

Like inferences, drawing a **conclusion** is the process of figuring something out that the writer has not directly stated by taking pieces of information from the passage and putting them together.

Conclusions usually relate to the paragraph or passage as a whole.

What conclusion can you draw from this paragraph?

Thank you for sending your resume in response to our newspaper advertisement. We consider our company—and especially our employees—to be the best, and we want to keep it that way. For that reason, we carefully review each resume that is sent to us. We are currently reviewing applications and expect to schedule interviews in the next couple of weeks. If you are selected for an interview, you can expect a phone call from our Human Resources staff.

Using clues like "thank you for sending your resume" and the lack of personal details, you can draw the conclusion that this must be a form letter sent to job applicants.

Writer's Point-of-View

The writer's **point-of-view** describes the the writer's position and perspective. The writer's background and experiences will affect his or her opinions, which in turn will influence how the author views a particular subject.

Identify writer's point-of-view by analyzing the tone of the passage—positive or negative—and taking note of any opinions that the author expressly states.

Watching actor Brian Dennehy as Willy Loman in the stage production of Death of a Salesman was transforming Theater provides the opportunity for strong emotions to surface, right there, in the moment. Seeing a play often envelops me in energy.

Author's POV: someone who likes the theater

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Silk: Now and Then

- 1 Modern consumers do not appreciate the historical importance of the fabric silk. Silk fabric is valued for its smooth texture and shimmering appearance. It is also highly absorbent, making silk clothing comfortable in both high and low temperatures. Today, silk fabrics remain somewhat more expensive than cotton cloth and synthetic textiles, but many would be surprised to learn that silk was arguably the most important product in Asia and Europe for nearly 1,000 years.

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- 2 Originally, sericulture—the technology of making silk cloth from silkworm cocoons—was known only in China. Around 2,000 years ago, nomads from Central Asia would travel to China to trade horses and other goods for silk cloth. As these nomads ventured West, silk became known to people in the Middle East and Europe. Over time, traders established routes over 4,000 miles long from China to Europe that became known as the Silk Road. Throughout the ancient and medieval world, silk was the preferred fabric for the robes of royalty and the very wealthy.

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1. The purpose of this passage is to
- A. criticize ancient peoples for overvaluing silk.
 - B. explain how silk fabrics are made.
 - C. entertain readers who enjoy historical travel.
 - D. inform about the historical importance of silk.

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2. How does the information in the second paragraph support the purpose of the passage?
- A. It illustrates why silk remains an expensive product today.
 - B. It refutes the notion that silk is a valuable product in the modern world.
 - C. It provides examples of silk's historical importance in trade and culture.
 - D. It compares the value of silk to that of other products from Asia.

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Talking Back to the Tube

- 1 CBS delivered a television low mark called *Big Brother*. Focusing on ten fame-seeking, people-pleasing, hair-teasing losers willing to submit to surveillance by a nation of snoops for three months, it was so bad that it wasn't even good. Forget about camp reversals that transform trash into the perversely fascinating, forget about the Cheese Factor, which allows a pop-cultural product to be moldy and musty and stinky and still taste good. *Big Brother* was so bad that even Jean-Paul

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Sartre would have yawned, and the dude wrote hundreds of pages about useless passion in *Being and Nothingness*.

- 2 But something good did come of *Big Brother*, something wicked and warped and witty, something created by people with way too much time on their hands and way too much venom in their bite. While the reality series was channeling banality through the cable cords and over the airwaves six nights a week, a small crew of writers were deconstructing and eviscerating the tedium on the Internet. They were taking hours and

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hours of prime-time dross and turning it into decadent, amoral, sharp, electronic gold.

3 Internet sass.

4 You gotta love it, if only because it keeps razor-tongued fanatics and uncensored savants off the streets and out of trouble.

5 Not only was there a site devoted entirely to the ridiculing of CBS, *Big Brother*, its ten cast members, their families, host Julie Chen, and the gaseous *Big Brother* house pug, but a number of other general interest sites, notably Salon.com, spent the summer

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providing wry daily updates on the non-goings-on of the non-people in the non-house. They, too, took the non-pulse of a DOA television series and gave it a semblance of life on the Internet.

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3. From whose point of view is this piece likely written?
 - A. a television script writer
 - B. a person who hates watching TV
 - C. someone knowledgeable about the media
 - D. a disgruntled fan

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Talking Back to the Tube

1. CBS delivered a television low mark called *Big Brother*. Focusing on ten fame-seeking, people-pleasing, hair-teasing losers willing to submit to surveillance by a nation of snoops for three months, it was so bad that it wasn't even good. Forget about camp reversals that transform trash into the perversely fascinating, forget about the Cheese Factor, which allows a pop-cultural product to be moldy and musty and stinky and still taste good. *Big Brother* was so bad that even Jean-Paul
4. Which of the following best describes the tone of this review?
 - A. apologetic
 - B. nostalgic for earlier shows
 - C. informal and hip
 - D. objective

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Paragraph 5: But something good did come of *Big Brother*, something wicked and warped and witty, something created by people with way too much time on their hands and way too much venom in their bite. While the reality series was channeling banality through the cable cords and over the airwaves six nights a week, a small crew of writers were deconstructing and eviscerating the tedium on the Internet. They were taking hours and hours of prime-time dross and turning it into decadent, amoral, sharp, electronic gold.

5. Which of the following best summarizes the reviewer's point about *Big Brother*?
 - A. The Internet reviews were much more interesting than the TV show.
 - B. The TV show was so bad that it was funny.
 - C. Internet writers are better than TV writers.
 - D. The main problem was with the ten people on the TV show.

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Sartre would have yawned, and the dude wrote hundreds of pages about useless passion in *Being and Nothingness*.

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6. Which opinion is supported by the statement “even Jean-Paul Sartre would have yawned, and the dude wrote hundreds of pages about useless passion” (paragraph 1)?
- A. The show was boring.
 - B. The show should have been longer.
 - C. The show needed more passion.
 - D. The show was incomprehensible.

Text Structures

The writer chooses to structure the text in a particular way that best supports his or her purpose.

Possible text structures used in information texts include:

Example: introduces a new topic and provides an example to aid understanding

Pros and Cons: explains a situation first by presenting benefits then by mentioning deficiencies in order to tell both sides

Chronological Order: presents details in the order in which they occurred

Elaboration: makes a statement and then provides additional information on the same subject

Text Structures

Pay attention to transition words in order to identify the text structure. Transition words connect one idea to another.

Text Structure	Purpose	Sample Transitions
Example	Organizes illustrations that support a concept	for example, for instance, such as, to illustrate
Pros and Cons	Shows benefits and drawbacks	on the one hand, on the other hand
Chronological Order or Process	Describes events and procedures	before, after, next, following, meanwhile, until
Elaboration	Expands with additional details	additionally, furthermore, moreover

Analyzing Structural Relationships

Questions may ask how one part of the text relates to another part of the text. You could be asked about a particular word, sentence or paragraph in reference to the main idea of the overall passage and purpose.

Ask yourself:

Does this information support? emphasize? summarize? argue against?

Analyzing Infographics

On the GED RLA Test, you will need to combine information from text and graphics to draw conclusions and note how the graphic relates to the information in the test.

To analyze an infographic, ask yourself:

- What is the main idea of the text?
- What is the subject of the graphic?
- What part of the text does the graphic relate to?
- Does the graphic provide supporting material? Additional material?

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Social Networking at What Cost

- 1 Sit in any restaurant or coffee shop long enough and you're bound to witness a familiar scene: a couple, a family, or a group of friends gathered to enjoy a meal, but instead of conversing, each person at the table sits staring at his or her cell phone. In this age of social media, the question arises: does technology enhance or limit our ability to make strong emotional connections with other people?
- 2 Social networks have broadened with the expansion of communication technology.

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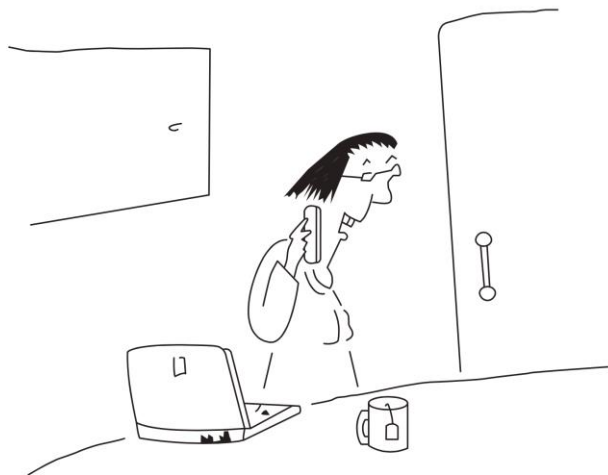
We connect easily with new acquaintances, old friends, potential clients, and complete strangers. For loved ones who are separated by distance, technology provides an important lifeline. Soldiers, deployed for long tours of duty, meet their newborn children over video chat. Grandparents, limited by ill health, watch their grandchildren grow through pictures and videos posted to social media sites.

- With all the benefits of social media,
- 3 however, come considerable costs. Each new connection we make (and old

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acquaintance we maintain) demands time, energy, and emotional investment. This often comes at the expense of time we could give to the most important people in our lives. Moreover, much of what we share through social media is superficial or entertaining. Only when technology is used to enhance our deepest, most valuable connections can it be considered real progress for humankind.

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"A bunch of friends are coming over to stare at their phones."

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- 2 Social networks have broadened with the expansion of communication technology.

7. What is the topic of the passage and the graphic?
 - A. maintaining long-distance relationships
 - B. how technology affects interpersonal connections
 - C. the limits of social media
 - D. the expense of new technologies

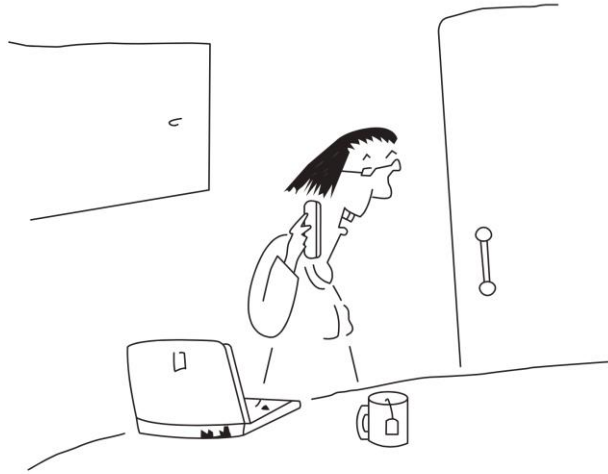
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8. What is the purpose of the passage and the graphic?
 - A. to discuss different forms of social media
 - B. to suggest a new form of communication technology
 - C. to examine ways in which modern families use technology to communicate
 - D. to discuss whether communication technology helps or hurts relationships

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"A bunch of friends are coming over to stare at their phones."

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9. Which of the following details in the graphic supports the author's point of view in the passage?
- A. The caption reveals that the woman is expecting friends to visit.
 - B. The woman in the cartoon is speaking on the phone with a computer nearby.
 - C. The woman in the cartoon is alone.
 - D. The caption reveals that the woman's friends will use their phones during their visit.

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10. Together, the graphic and the passage support which of the following conclusions?
 - A. New communication technologies may offer exciting ways for people to establish new friendships.
 - B. New communication technologies may adversely impact important human relationships.
 - C. New communication technologies may offer positive solutions for friends who are separated by distance.
 - D. New communication technologies may help people to complete several tasks at once.

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Digital Voting: A Better Way to Count

- 1 The large-scale adoption in 1996 of direct-recording electronic (DRE) voting marked the beginning of an era of superior voting technology. For as long as elections have been held, voting systems have been flawed in various ways. In mid-18th century America, voters called out their selections publicly. This assured an accurate count but meant voting could not be private. Paper ballots, on the other hand, were anonymous but could be easily forged or miscounted.
- 2 The next innovation was the mechanical-

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lever voting machine, introduced in the late 19th century. The use of this voting system peaked in the 1960s. Over the next several decades, the mechanical-lever machines were replaced by two early electronic voting systems: bubble sheets recorded by optical scanner and punch cards processed electronically. All of these systems were prone to glitches, such as the notorious “hanging chads” and unreadable ballots in Florida after the 2000 U.S. presidential election.

3 Now, many jurisdictions use all-electronic

Mixed Practice

DRE systems. Every step of the voting process is electronic: the ballot appears on a screen, the voter indicates his or her selection via buttons or touch-screen technology, and results are stored on a memory card. In DRE voting, there is always a record of a voter's choices, and there is no chance of voters filling in the wrong bubble or of poorly punched cards that cause votes to go uncounted. For all of these reasons, DRE is clearly the most secure and accurate voting system available.

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11. The main point of the passage is that
- A. unlike optical-scanning and punch-card voting systems, DRE voting is completely electronic.
 - B. punch-card voting systems caused a problem in the 2000 presidential election.
 - C. DRE systems offer more security and accuracy than other voting systems.
 - D. elections in America have changed greatly over the years.

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- 3 Now, many jurisdictions use all-electronic DRE systems. Every step of the voting process is electronic: the ballot appears on a screen, the voter indicates his or her selection via buttons or touch- screen technology, and results are stored on a memory card. In DRE voting, there is always a record of a voter's choices, and there is no chance of voters filling in the wrong bubble or of poorly punched cards that cause votes to go uncounted. For all of these reasons, DRE is clearly the most secure and accurate voting system available.
12. Which of the following is evidence to support the writer's argument?
- A. When technology changes, voting systems change along with it.
 - B. DRE voting avoids problems associated with other voting systems.
 - C. Several voting systems have become obsolete because they violated voters' privacy.
 - D. No modern-day election would ever be conducted using a public voice vote.

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13. Which of the following is an example of the faulty reasoning that weakens the argument?
 - A. The writer claims that punch-card systems contributed to problems in the 2000 presidential election without providing any support for the claim.
 - B. The writer suggests that DRE voting was responsible for the demise of older voting systems, overlooking the possibility that there might have been another cause.
 - C. The writer fails to consider that even if DRE voting addresses all the flaws of previous systems, it may introduce other flaws of its own.
 - D. The author fails to provide evidence that voters in 18th-century America were wary of elections.

Learning Objectives

Now that you have completed this lesson, you should be able to:

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- Explain how the structure of a word, paragraph, section, or passage shapes meaning, emphasizes key ideas, or supports an author's purpose

Questions?

Effort and practice are the keys to Test Day Success. Now that you have completed this lesson, you should reinforce these topics by completing practice questions.

If you have questions between live sessions, email your GED experts at GEDHelp@kaplan.com.

Happy studying!



Answer Key

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Silk: Now and Then

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P1
historical
importance
of silk

reasons valuable

Answer Key

- 2 Originally, sericulture—the technology of making silk cloth from silkworm cocoons—was known only in China. Around 2,000 years ago, nomads from Central Asia would travel to China to trade horses and other goods for silk cloth. As these nomads ventured West, silk became known to people in the Middle East and Europe. Over time, traders established routes over 4,000 miles long from China to Europe that became known as the Silk Road. Throughout the ancient and medieval world, silk was the preferred fabric for the robes of royalty and the very wealthy.

P2
silk-making
process origins

spread across
World; trade

Answer Key

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- p2
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1. The purpose of this passage is to
- A. criticize ancient peoples for overvaluing silk.
 - B. explain how silk fabrics are made.
 - C. entertain readers who enjoy historical travel.
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2. How does the information in the second paragraph support the purpose of the passage?
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P1

BB = "low mark"

really bad

Answer Key

Sartre would have yawned, and the dude wrote hundreds of pages about useless passion in *Being and Nothingness*.

- 2 But something good did come of *Big Brother*, something wicked and warped and witty, something created by people with way too much time on their hands and way too much venom in their bite. While the reality series was channeling banality through the cable cords and over the airwaves six nights a week, a small crew of writers were deconstructing and eviscerating the tedium on the Internet. They were taking hours and

P2
the good

Answer Key

hours of prime-time dross and turning it into decadent, amoral, sharp, electronic gold.

3 Internet sass.

4 You gotta love it, if only because it keeps razor-tongued fanatics and uncensored savants off the streets and out of trouble.

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P2 cont
writers turn TV
tedium to internet
gold

P4
satirical tone

P5
ridiculing BB

Answer Key

providing wry daily updates on the non-goings-on of the non-people in the non-house. They, too, took the non-pulse of a DOA television series and gave it a semblance of life on the Internet.

lots of
commentary

Answer Key

p1

1 BB = "low mark"; really bad

p2

the good; writers turn TV tedium to internet gold

p4

satirical tone

p5

ridiculing BB; lots of commentary

3. From whose point of view is this piece likely written?
- A. a television script writer
 - B. a person who hates watching TV
 - ☒ C. someone knowledgeable about the media
 - D. a disgruntled fan

Answer Key

P1

1 BB = "low mark"; really bad

P2

the good; writers turn TV tedium to internet gold

P4

satirical tone

P5

ridiculing BB; lots of commentary

4. Which of the following best describes the tone of this review?
- A. apologetic
 - B. nostalgic for earlier shows
 - ☒ C. informal and hip
 - D. objective

Answer Key

Paragraph 5: But something good did come of *Big Brother*, something wicked and warped and witty, something created by people with way too much time on their hands and way too much venom in their bite. While the reality series was channeling banality through the cable cords and over the airwaves six nights a week, a small crew of writers were deconstructing and eviscerating the tedium on the Internet. They were taking hours and hours of prime-time dross and turning it into decadent, amoral, sharp, electronic gold.

5. Which of the following best summarizes the reviewer's point about *Big Brother*?
- A. The Internet reviews were much more interesting than the TV show.
 - B. The TV show was so bad that it was funny.
 - C. Internet writers are better than TV writers.
 - D. The main problem was with the ten people on the TV show.

Answer Key

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BB = "low mark"; really bad

6. Which opinion is supported by the statement "even Jean-Paul Sartre would have yawned, and the dude wrote hundreds of pages about useless passion" (paragraph 1)?

- A. The show was boring.
- B. The show should have been longer.
- C. The show needed more passion.
- D. The show was incomprehensible.

Answer Key

Social Networking at What Cost

- 1 Sit in any restaurant or coffee shop long enough and you're bound to witness a familiar scene: a couple, a family, or a group of friends gathered to enjoy a meal, but instead of conversing, each person at the table sits staring at his or her cell phone. In this age of social media, the question arises: does technology enhance or limit our ability to make strong emotional connections with other people?
- 2 Social networks have broadened with the expansion of communication technology.

P1

people on phones
vs conversing

tech. limiting
connections?

P2

social networks
broader

Answer Key

We connect easily with new acquaintances, old friends, potential clients, and complete strangers. For loved ones who are separated by distance, technology provides an important lifeline. Soldiers, deployed for long tours of duty, meet their newborn children over video chat. Grandparents, limited by ill health, watch their grandchildren grow through pictures and videos posted to social media sites.

- 3 With all the benefits of social media, however, come considerable costs. Each new connection we make (and old

examples

P3
costs

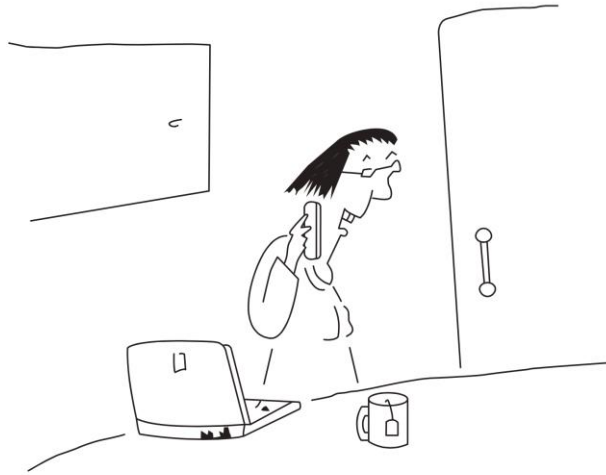
Answer Key

acquaintance we maintain) demands time, energy, and emotional investment. This often comes at the expense of time we could give to the most important people in our lives. Moreover, much of what we share through social media is superficial or entertaining. Only when technology is used to enhance our deepest, most valuable connections can it be considered real progress for humankind.

takes time away
from other people

superficial

Answer Key



"A bunch of friends are coming over to stare at their phones."

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Graphic:
woman having friends over
to look at their phones

Answer Key

Social Networking at What Cost

1. Passage:
how tech affects
communication
pros and cons of social media

Graphic:
woman having friends over to
look at phones

2. Social networks have broadened with the
expansion of communication technology.

7. What is the topic of the passage and the graphic?
- A. maintaining long-distance relationships
 - B. how technology affects interpersonal connections**
 - C. the limits of social media
 - D. the expense of new technologies

Answer Key

Social Networking at What Cost

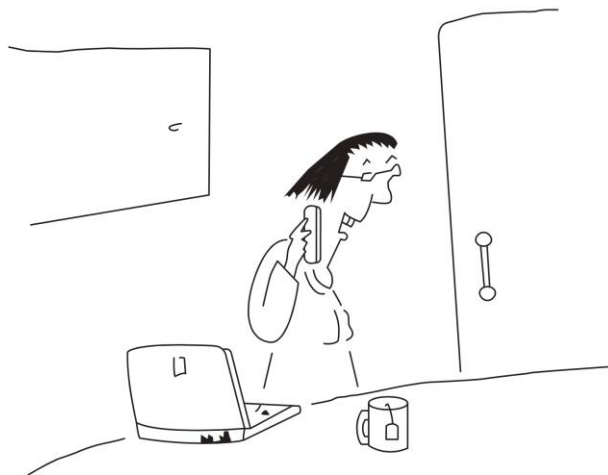
1. Passage:
how tech affects
communication
pros and cons of social media

Graphic:
woman having friends over to
look at phones

2. Social networks have broadened with the expansion of communication technology.

8. What is the purpose of the passage and the graphic?
- A. to discuss different forms of social media
 - B. to suggest a new form of communication technology
 - C. to examine ways in which modern families use technology to communicate
 - D. to discuss whether communication technology helps or hurts relationships**

Answer Key



"A bunch of friends are coming over to stare at their phones."

© 2011 Peter Mueller from Cartoonbank.com. All rights reserved.

9. Which of the following details in the graphic supports the author's point of view in the passage?
- A. The caption reveals that the woman is expecting friends to visit.
 - B. The woman in the cartoon is speaking on the phone with a computer nearby.
 - C. The woman in the cartoon is alone.
 - D.** The caption reveals that the woman's friends will use their phones during their visit.

Answer Key

Social Networking at What Cost

1. **Passage:**
how tech affects
communication
pros and cons of social media

Graphic:
woman having friends over to
look at phones

2. Social networks have broadened with the expansion of communication technology.

10. Together, the graphic and the passage support which of the following conclusions?
- A. New communication technologies may offer exciting ways for people to establish new friendships.
 - B. New communication technologies may adversely impact important human relationships.**
 - C. New communication technologies may offer positive solutions for friends who are separated by distance.
 - D. New communication technologies may help people to complete several tasks at once.

Answer Key

Digital Voting: A Better Way to Count

- 1 The large-scale adoption in 1996 of direct-recording electronic (DRE) voting marked the beginning of an era of superior voting technology. For as long as elections have been held, voting systems have been flawed in various ways. In mid-18th century America, voters called out their selections publicly. This assured an accurate count but meant voting could not be private. Paper ballots, on the other hand, were anonymous but could be easily forged or miscounted.
- 2 The next innovation was the mechanical-

P1
DRE "superior"

flaws of
previous voting methods

Answer Key

lever voting machine, introduced in the late 19th century. The use of this voting system peaked in the 1960s. Over the next several decades, the mechanical-lever machines were replaced by two early electronic voting systems: bubble sheets recorded by optical scanner and punch cards processed electronically. All of these systems were prone to glitches, such as the notorious “hanging chads” and unreadable ballots in Florida after the 2000 U.S. presidential election.

P2
mechanical-lever
voting

electronic voting

glitches

3 Now, many jurisdictions use all-electronic

Answer Key

DRE systems. Every step of the voting process is electronic: the ballot appears on a screen, the voter indicates his or her selection via buttons or touch-screen technology, and results are stored on a memory card. In DRE voting, there is always a record of a voter's choices, and there is no chance of voters filling in the wrong bubble or of poorly punched cards that cause votes to go uncounted. For all of these reasons, DRE is clearly the most secure and accurate voting system available.

P3

about DRE: *all*
electronic

"most secure and accurate"

Answer Key

Digital Voting: A Better Way to

1. P1 The large-scale adoption in 1996 of direct-
DRE "superior"
flaws of previous voting methods

P2
mechanical-lever voting
glitches

P3
about DRE
"most secure and accurate"

11. The main point of the passage is that
- A. unlike optical-scanning and punch-card voting systems, DRE voting is completely electronic.
 - B. punch-card voting systems caused a problem in the 2000 presidential election.
 - ☒ C. DRE systems offer more security and accuracy than other voting systems.
 - D. elections in America have changed greatly over the years.

Answer Key

- 3 Now, many jurisdictions use all-electronic DRE systems. Every step of the voting process is electronic: the ballot appears on a screen, the voter indicates his or her selection via buttons or touch- screen technology, and results are stored on a memory card. In DRE voting, there is always a record of a voter's choices, and there is no chance of voters filling in the wrong bubble or of poorly punched cards that cause votes to go uncounted. For all of these reasons, DRE is clearly the most secure and accurate voting system available.

12. Which of the following is evidence to support the writer's argument?
- A. When technology changes, voting systems change along with it.
 - ☒ B. DRE voting avoids problems associated with other voting systems.
 - C. Several voting systems have become obsolete because they violated voters' privacy.
 - D. No modern-day election would ever be conducted using a public voice vote.

Answer Key

Digital Voting: A Better Way to Count

- 1 The large-scale adoption in 1996 of direct- recording electronic (DRE) voting marked the beginning of an era of superior voting technology. For as long as elections have been held, voting systems have been flawed in various ways. In mid-18th century America, voters called out their selections publicly. This assured an accurate count but meant voting could not be private. Paper ballots, on the other hand, were anonymous but could be easily forged or miscounted.

13. Which of the following is an example of the faulty reasoning that weakens the argument?
- A. The writer claims that punch-card systems contributed to problems in the 2000 presidential election without providing any support for the claim.
 - B. The writer suggests that DRE voting was responsible for the demise of older voting systems, overlooking the possibility that there might have been another cause.
 - C.

 The writer fails to consider that even if DRE voting addresses all the flaws of previous systems, it may introduce other flaws of its own.
 - D. The author fails to provide evidence that voters in 18th-century America were wary of elections.