

LIBERAL STUDIES ADVICE SHEET 1

READING NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: HOW TO GET A BASIC UNDERSTANDING

These guidelines are designed to help you to read a newspaper article carefully before you respond thoughtfully in writing.

PROCEDURE

Before writing a response, obviously you need to read and understand the article. Here is a suggested procedure:

- A. Tune in to the topic or issue
 - i. Cover the text, read the headline and think what it might mean
 - ii. Study any photos, cartoons, diagrams, etc. that accompany the article
 - iii. Guess the main topic/issue
 - iv. List vocabulary related to this topic/issue that you would expect to see in the article

Why do this? If you are actively thinking about a topic/issue and related vocabulary, it will help you to understand better when you actually read the text.

- B. Read to confirm the topic/issue
 - i. Read the whole article quickly, or, read the first and last paragraphs carefully
 - ii. Confirm your guess about the topic/issue
 - iii. Note the actual topic/issue
- C. Read to get the main ideas
 - iv. Read the content paragraphs carefully
 - v. Underline the topic sentence in each paragraph
 - vi. Note the main idea of each paragraph *in your own words*
 - vii. If there is any unfamiliar vocabulary that stops you getting the main ideas, check those words in a dictionary
 - viii. Put your notes of the main ideas together to make a summary

You should now have a basic understanding of the newspaper article. If possible, to check that your summary is accurate, compare it with a classmate's.