

## Reading Comprehension Cheat Sheet v.1.0

### 1. Preview the 1<sup>st</sup> question

- a. Question only. Don't read answers!

### 2. Read the text

- a. Show **interest** in the story
- b. Write **very short** notes for better comprehension (in best case scenario, you should not refer back to your notes)
- c. Simplify story
  - 10 word / paragraph
  - Watch out for twists
- d. Visualize and connect with the text
- e. Re-Format beginning of the passage because generally it's the most important part
  - Translate to noun – verb simple structure
  - 1 idea / sentence
- f. Link new information to the main idea
  - Expected info or surprised
  - Support or oppose
  - Answer or new question
- g. Watch for signals
  - Paragraph breaks are for reason
  - Specific strong word
- h. Speed-up reading at the end. Exceptions:
  - Beginning of each paragraph
  - Big surprises/turns

### 3. When reading

- a. Identify point/idea
- b. Find background, supporting evidence, future implications
- c. Signs of **main point**
  - Problem -> **resolution**
  - Question -> **answer**
  - Old idea -> **new idea**
  - Observation -> **reason / new idea**

### 4. Passage type

- a. Short passage
  - Text version of main point of paragraph (text = very short and concise, under 5 words)
  - Read the rest, pay attention to turns/surprises
  - After all, identify point
- b. Long passage

- Text every sentence for 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph
- 1 ***short*** summary for each of remaining paragraphs
- After reading, glance back at your notes and find the main point of the passage

## 5. Answering questions

- Applies to general question (like main idea, main point, etc.)
  - Don't re-read the passage
  - Stuck between two choices? Use Scoring System: for every relation to 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, choice gets +2 points, +1 point for the rest. Highest score = answer
- Applies to specific questions
  - Identify key words
  - Re-read the specific part of the passage before reading answer choices
  - Read choices after understanding the specific part
  - Find proof sentence for your choice (usually 1 or 2 sentences)
- Applies to both
  - In answer, every word **MUST** relate to the passage
  - **AVOID** strong word if can (all, never, must, etc.)
  - Infer only tiny bit. Don't go too far.