

Assemble Your Answer

P.B.P.4 P.C.P.7 P.D.P.8 I.F.I.4 L.C.L.3

5

Reading the whole passage with the SALSA™ active reading strategies you have learned is just the beginning. Next, you have to pull the important information together to answer the questions properly.

Assemble If you can describe the key ideas in two or three sentences, then you understand what you read. If you're not sure, go back and use Fix-up strategies until you can do it. (This is called **summarizing**. You'll read more about it in Lesson 19.)

Skim the directions again to see where and how to write your answers. If the directions are to fill in the bubbles, but you circle the correct answer instead, you will not get any points.

Skim the questions again. Make sure that you read them correctly the first time. Mark questions you can't answer. Later, you can look for answers or ask your teacher about them.

Some tests ask you to write out answers. Skim your written answers. Did you answer all parts of the question? Did you use details from the passage to support your ideas? Did you follow the rules of English? Did you use complete sentences?

Here is a short checklist of helpful reminders. Can you think of others?

Assemble Your Answer

Ask yourself—

- Can I summarize the passage successfully?
- Did I flag unanswered questions for follow-up later?
- Do my answers match the questions?
- Do my answers make sense?
- Are my answers in the right place and style?
- Are my written answers in complete sentences?
- Do my written answers follow the rules of grammar?
- _____

Example

Which of the following is the best summary of "Introducing... Stamps!"?

- Ⓐ The first U.S. stamps were printed in 1847 and cost either 5 or 10 cents.
- Ⓑ An original 5- or 10-cent stamp in mint condition is worth thousands of dollars today. Only a few of the millions of original stamps are in such good condition, though.
- Ⓒ The first U.S. stamps had Benjamin Franklin and George Washington on them.
- Ⓓ U.S. stamps were introduced in 1847 because many people refused to pay for their mail after it was delivered. The new stamps were popular then and are a collector's item today.

D I S C U S S	Ⓐ This summary leaves out many important details, such as why stamps were needed and whether they were successful.	Ⓒ Franklin and Washington were on the first U.S. stamps, but this answer does not express the main idea of the passage.
	Ⓑ The author does makes this point. However, it only describes a small section of the passage, not the whole thing.	Ⓓ This answer ties together important ideas and details. It helps make sense of the whole passage.



Connections As you summarize, make up your own mind about the information and ideas described by the author. One of the most important parts of active reading is this ability to **evaluate** what you read instead of believing everything that the author writes. Can you identify three kinds of writing in which the author does not tell readers the whole truth?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____