

Assemble Your Answer

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Reaching the end of a passage is just the beginning. Using the SALSA™ method, you've gathered a lot of information. Now you need to put all that information together to answer the questions properly. That way, you or someone reading your answers can make sense of them later.

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 11.)

Skim the *questions* again to be sure that you answered the questions that were actually asked. Skim the *instructions* again to see *where* and *how* to write your answers. Make sure to follow both the directions and the rules of English. A great answer is useless if you've circled where you should have filled-in bubbles, or if you've written in incomplete sentences.

You must be confident in your answers. Do they make sense? Will they convince someone who reads them? Did you support or confirm them with details from the passage? (Check your notes if you need help finding details.) If a question asks for two supporting details, make sure to use two supporting details in your answer. If it asks for three supporting details, make sure to include three supporting details.

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

Assemble Your Answer

Ask yourself:

- Did 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?
- Did I include the correct number of examples or details to support my answer?
- Are my answers written in complete sentences?
- Do my answers follow the rules of grammar?
- _____

Example

Summarize, or briefly describe, what “The Value of Money” is about on the lines below. Use at least two details that support your answer in your summary.

Laura’s Answer

“The Value of Money” is about money and how much it costs to make and how much it is worth. At one time pennies were gray. That was during the war. Copper was needed for the war effort.

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Laura correctly identifies what the passage is mostly about—how much money costs and how much it is worth. However, she did not assemble her answer carefully. She provides only one detail, not two. And that detail—that pennies were once gray, because copper was needed for the war—is not directly related to her statement that the passage is about the cost and value of money.



Improving Laura’s Answer

Laura should take another look at the question. It asks her to include *two* details that support her answer. She describes what the passage is about and includes one detail, but that detail doesn’t support her answer. When you are asked to include supporting details, make sure they actually support your answer. Laura could have provided the following details:

The value of money isn’t connected to how much it costs to make. It costs 6 cents to make either a \$1 bill or a \$100 bill. Pennies cost a cent to make but are worth only one cent. A long time ago money was made of valuable metal, but now the value of money is determined by the government.



Connections Why is it so important to include details that support your answer?
