

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.

Asemble If you can describe the key ideas in one or two 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 10.)

Skim the instructions 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. Flag 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 support your ideas with details from the passage? 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

Reread “The Value of Money” on page 8. Which of the following choices BEST summarizes, or briefly describes, what the passage is about?

- Ⓐ Whether a bill is \$1 or \$100, it costs only 6 cents to make.
- Ⓑ The value of money may have nothing to do with how much it costs to make, because it is no longer made of anything valuable, such as gold or silver.
- Ⓒ It is tempting to pay debts by simply printing more money.
- Ⓓ There are many funny money stories, such as the time the Treasury printed 3-cent bills, or the time pennies were made from gray zinc and steel.

D I S C U S S	Ⓐ This summary gives an important detail from the introduction. But it does not give the author’s key idea.	Ⓒ This is another small detail from the article. It is not what the whole passage is about.
	Ⓑ Compare this answer to each section of the passage. It is related to each part, and presents an important idea that connects them.	Ⓓ This choice might be a summary of the section titled “Money Problems.” But it is only about that one section, not the whole passage.



Connections Summaries can be written to different lengths. The SOL exams only ask for brief summaries. Other kinds of tests and assignments may call for longer summaries that provide more details. On the lines below, write your own detailed summary of “The Value of Money.”
