

# Before Reading

## Survey the text

1. Read any titles and subheadings to identify the topic and key ideas
2. Label **ALL** text features and IDENTIFY their purpose.
3. Skim the text for key terms
4. Read the first and last paragraph
5. Notice the length of the reading selection
6. Make a prediction: (Example: I predict this selection will be about \_\_\_\_\_)

## Find the topic

- Topic- who or what the text is about

## During Reading

### Chunking

1. Determine where the **introduction** ends and mark the spot with a sticky note or by drawing a line across the page. Ask yourself :
  - Does the introduction end at the end of the first paragraph?
  - Does the introduction have several paragraphs?
  - How do you know?
2. Determine where the **conclusion** begins and mark the spot with a sticky note or by drawing a line across the page. Ask yourself:
  - Does the conclusion begin with the last paragraph?
  - Does the conclusion have several paragraphs?
  - How do you know?
3. Discuss in pairs how you decided where the introduction ended and the conclusion began.
4. Read and divide the remaining **paragraphs into sections (chunks)** by ideas, noting where the author moves from one idea to another.

## During Reading

### Charting

1. List the paragraph numbers for each segment or chunk of text in the left column of the chart on the handout provided.
2. For each paragraph or chunk of paragraphs that develops a single idea, note what the author is saying (the essential details of the paragraphs) in the corresponding column. Ask the following questions:
  - What is the author's message in each section?
  - Which section is the most effective?
  - Which section is the least effective?
3. After considering what the author is saying, determine the author's purpose or intention for each section of the text. Use the present-progressive tense (e.g., "Establishing...," "Defining...," "Explaining..."). Ask the following questions:
  - What is the writer trying to accomplish in each section?
  - How does each section affect the reader?

## After Reading

### Summarizing Main Argument

Discuss how you charted the text. Try to reach a consensus regarding the text's main argument. State the argument in one sentence. Ask the following questions:

- What is the main argument?
- Is the main argument explicitly stated, or is it implicit?