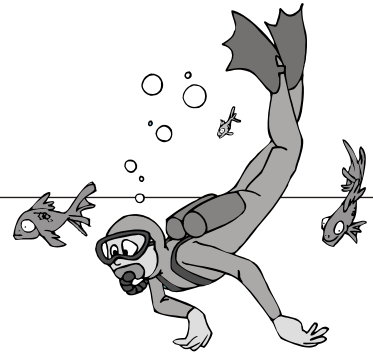


Fact and Opinion

Section 1.4 Multiple Sources



Pre-View 1.4

- **Persuade** – to cause someone to believe or to do something
- **Inference** – the use of reasoning to draw a conclusion based on evidence

The purpose of many types of media is to **persuade** you to believe something or to do something. Commercials and billboards try to persuade you to buy something, politicians try to persuade you to vote for them, magazine editorials try to persuade you to agree with someone else’s opinion. During your lifetime, you will be bombarded with media trying to persuade you. Remember to identify what is fact and what is opinion. Then you can form your own opinion based on the facts.

When you want to make a decision to buy a product, support a cause, etc., you will likely want to read and hear from more than one source. Look at examples of multiple media. Identify and compare which facts and opinions are common to both sources.

Example 1: Read the following excerpt from a magazine editorial.

Learning how to scuba dive is a lot of fun and a great way to meet new people. Recreational scuba diving classes consist of thirty hours of class time and twenty hours of pool time to learn diving. Classes can be no larger than ten people at a time. Once class members have mastered the basics in class and in the pool, they are given the opportunity to go to a lake or the ocean to prove that they have mastered the open water checkout that divers must perform before they can be awarded diving certification. After being certified, they also need to participate in at least four dives a year to be sure they remember how to perform what they have learned.

Now read the following billboard.

SCUBA UNLIMITED, LLC

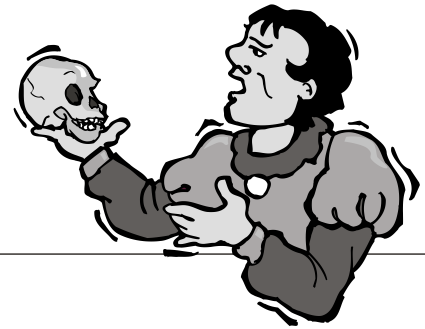
Serving all your diving needs
1155 Beach Drive, Gulfport, MS
Classes start soon. Call us today at **1-800-555-DIVE**
Don't miss the fun!

Which of the following statements accurately evaluates how facts and opinions are used in both the magazine article and the billboard?

- Both the editorial and the billboard express the fact that certification requires at least four dives a year.
- Both the editorial and the billboard express the opinion that scuba diving is a lot of fun.
- Both the editorial and the billboard express the fact that classes can be no larger than ten people.
- Both the editorial and the billboard express the opinion that a local scuba store can supply all diving needs.

Analyzing and Evaluating Texts

Section 2.3 Explication



Pre-View 2.3

- **Explication** – a type of explanation that interprets or clarifies a text
- **Idiom** – an expression, such as “it’s raining cats and dogs,” that cannot be understood from the definitions of the individual words (cannot be interpreted literally)

An **explication** is an explanation or an interpretation of a text.

In some cases, an explication is much longer than the original text. For example, an explication of a verse of poetry is often much longer than the verse itself. It gives the author of the poem, its relationship to the rest of the poem, the pattern of stressed syllables (meter), the significance of the lines, the possible meaning of the verse, etc. This type of explication is something you may be expected to do in an advanced high school literature class or in college.

In other cases, an explication is shorter than the original text. It gives a concise explanation of the meaning of the text that tells exactly what the text means or is trying to say. This kind of explication is similar to determining the “main idea,” and it’s the kind you’ll likely see tested in a multiple-choice format. It will be a clear, concise statement that explains the gist of the passage. It will never include an **idiom**, an expression, such as “it cost an arm and a leg,” that cannot be interpreted literally from the individual words.

Example 1:

When our school hours changed, starting later in the morning, it was a blessing in disguise. What seemed to be a disaster was really a huge benefit to me. The later starting time also meant a later end time, making me lose my place in the community theater where I have been part of an acting team for two years. When I called the actors’ team leader, she said she was so sorry that this was happening. Then she said that it was time that I was moved into the advanced acting team anyway. She said I could start attending that theater practice with those later hours immediately! And I thought this would never happen. Who would have thought that later hours would bring so much good.

Which of the following is an appropriate and accurate explication of this paragraph?

- A. Most people agree that starting school later is a good idea.
- B. At first, starting school later seemed to have negative consequences, but it turned out to be beneficial for me.
- C. Being promoted to the advanced acting team is something I didn’t think would ever happen.
- D. School starting later in the morning caused me to lose my place in the community theater.

First ask yourself, “What is the main idea of this paragraph?” You may notice that the first sentence “When our school hours changed, starting later in the morning, it was a blessing in disguise” does a good job of giving the main idea, but “a blessing in disguise” is an idiom. How can you restate this main idea by using plain, concise language?

Inference

Section 4.3 Making Inferences in Poetry



Pre-View 4.3

- **Prose** – writing that uses ordinary sentences
- **Poetry** – a type of writing that uses verse instead of ordinary sentences

So far, you’ve looked at different reading skills for prose. **Prose** is any type of writing that isn’t poetry. Prose contains ordinary sentences that follow ordinary grammar rules. This type of writing includes biographies, textbook explanations, encyclopedias, short stories, novels, magazine articles, newspapers, etc.

Poetry, on the other hand, is written in verse form and doesn’t follow the same “rules” as prose. But the skill of using inference can also apply to poetry. (In poetry, a *verse* is a line, and a *stanza* is a group of lines, similar to a paragraph of prose.)

Example: Friendship by John Dorroh

Rekindling old friendships
Is finding lost treasure;
It’s hard to place value
Or even to measure.

The people we meet
And tuck neatly away
Come back to our center
And help light our way.

The trick now before us
Is keeping them fresh,
Or might we be tempted
To lay them to rest.

The people we’ve met
And loved with our hearts
Deserve our attention
And fresh daily starts.

Based on the language and details in this poem, what can the reader infer about the speaker?

- A. The speaker fears that friends will move away.
- B. The speaker values long-term friendships.
- C. The speaker has trouble forming lasting friendships.
- D. The speaker enjoys playing tricks on friends.

The very first two verses of this poem, “Rekindling old friendships / Is finding lost treasure,” gives you the best clue for the answer. Finding lost treasure is valuable and exciting, so you can infer that the speaker believes rekindling old friendships is also valuable and exciting. It implies that the speaker values long-term friendships, which is **answer choice B**.

The entire poem refers to old friends and keeping those friendships alive. It isn’t about friends moving away, trying to form friendships, or playing tricks on friends as given in the other answer choices.