

Illinois Certification Testing System



BASIC SKILLS: READING COMPREHENSION

Workshop Activities



- **Discuss reading comprehension self-assessment**
- **Reading comprehension standards**
- **Review and apply each standard**
- **Practice all standards**
- **Refer to exercises to practice at home**

Reading Comprehension Self-Assessment



- Do you feel like you are a competent reader?
- Do think you comprehend reading passages well?
- Do you feel like you need to rush through the reading passages for a timed-test?
- What steps do you take to complete a reading comprehension section for a timed-test?

Reading Comprehension Standards



- **Standard 1: Determine the meaning of words and phrases in context.**
- **Standard 2: Understand the main idea and supporting details in written material.**
- **Standard 3: Apply skills of inference and interpretation to a variety of written materials.**
- **Standard 4: Analyze relationships among ideas in written material.**
- **Standard 5: Use critical reasoning skills to evaluate written material.**
- **Standard 6: Apply skills for outlining and summarizing materials and interpreting information presented in graphs or tables.**

Review Standard 1



- **How can you determine the meanings of words and phrases in context?**
 1. Substitute the word or phrase for a different word or phrase
 2. Look at what you do understand about the sentence to make an educated guess
 3. Look for direct context cues – meaning of the word or phrase set off by dashes, commas, or parentheses

Review Standard 2



- **How can you understand the main idea and supporting details?**
 1. What is the topic being discussed?
 2. Is there a sentence that states the main topic of the passage?
 3. Does the first paragraph hint the main topic?
 4. What sentences/paragraphs support the main topic with examples, facts, or statistics?
 5. What sentences/paragraphs add detail to the main topic?

Review Standard 3



- **How can you apply skills of inference and interpretation to a variety of written materials?**
 1. What conclusions can you make about the subject?
 2. What evidence can you find in the text to support your conclusion?

Review Standard 4



- **How can you analyze relationships among ideas?
(Wade)**
 1. What is the function of a word in relation to a larger segment of the passage?
 2. What are the relationships among the various ideas in the passage?
 3. What is the relationship of the author to the topic or to the audience?

Review Standard 5



- How can you use critical reasoning skills to evaluate?
 1. Ask questions to help you judge the material
 2. Define the problem
 3. Examine the evidence
 4. Analyze assumptions and biases
 5. Avoid emotional reasoning
 6. Avoid oversimplification
 7. Consider other interpretations
 8. Tolerate ambiguity

Review Standard 6



- How can you apply skills for outlining and summarizing materials and interpreting information presented in graphs or tables?
 1. Restate the main idea
 2. Organize the ideas the same order as they appear in the text
 3. Interpret what the data in the graphs and tables mean in relationship to the reading passage

Practice



- Practice each standard as a group by reading and answering the questions.
- Practice each standard on your own by going to http://www.icts.nesinc.com/IL_practest_opener.asp to complete the practice test.

Citation



- **Information for this workshop came from:**
 - http://www.icts.nesinc.com/IL_practest_opener.asp
 - Wade, C. (1995). Using writing to develop and assess critical thinking. *Teaching of Psychology*, 22(1), 24-28.