

The SAT Reading Section

# How to Read



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**Five passages:** 1 Literature, 2 social sciences, 2 natural sciences



One of the SS passages will be the **Great Global Conversation**



One of the passages will be a **Paired Passage**

# The SAT Reading Section: **How to Read**

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Let's start with a short passage. Can you **summarize the main idea in six words or fewer?**

Food has always been considered one of the most salient markers of cultural traditions. When I was a small child, food was the only thing that helped identify my family as Filipino American. We ate pansit lug-lug (a noodle dish) and my father put patis (salty fish sauce) on everything. However, even this connection lessened as I grew older. As my parents became more acculturated, we ate less typically Filipino food. When I was twelve, my mother took cooking classes and learned to make French and Italian dishes. When I was in high school, we ate chicken marsala and shrimp fra diablo more often than Filipino dishes like pansit lug-lug.

# The SAT Reading Section: **How to Read**

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What was the **main idea**? What did you **use to figure that out**?

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## **Introductory Information**

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## **Contrasting Words**

Food has always been considered one of the most salient markers of cultural traditions. When I was a small child, food was the only thing that helped identify my family as Filipino American. We ate pansit lug-lug (a noodle dish) and my father put patis (salty fish sauce) on everything. **However**, even this connection lessened as I grew older. As my parents became more acculturated, we ate less typically Filipino food. When I was twelve, my mother took cooking classes and learned to make French and Italian dishes. When I was in high school, we ate chicken marsala and shrimp fra diablo more often than Filipino dishes like pansit lug-lug.

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## **Concluding Sentences**

Food has always been considered one of the most salient markers of cultural traditions. When I was a small child, food was the only thing that helped identify my family as Filipino American. We ate pansit lug-lug (a noodle dish) and my father put patis (salty fish sauce) on everything. However, even this connection lessened as I grew older. As my parents became more acculturated, we ate less typically Filipino food. When I was twelve, my mother took cooking classes and learned to make French and Italian dishes. When I was in high school, we ate chicken marsala and shrimp fra diablo more often than Filipino dishes like pansit lug-lug.

The SAT Reading Section

# How to Read: Finding the Main Idea



1. Read the **“blurb.”**
2. Pay special attention to **first and last sentences.**
3. Skim through details—remember, we’re looking for the **main idea.**
4. Look for **contrast words** (however, but, despite this)
5. **Annotate** when possible.

The SAT Reading Section

# Mapping a Passage & the Main Idea



1. Read the **“blurb.”**
2. Pay special attention to **first and last sentences.**
3. Skim through details—remember, we’re looking for the **main idea.**
4. Look for **contrast words** (however, but, despite this)
5. **Annotate** when possible.



# The SAT Reading Section: **Mapping a Passage**

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**Let's consider a passage about cats from the May 2018 SAT.**

*This passage is adapted from David Grimm, "The Genes That Turned Wildcats into Kitty Cats." ©2014 by American Association for the Advancement of Science.*

Place a housecat next to its direct ancestor, the Near Eastern wildcat, and it may take you a minute to spot the difference. They're about the same size and shape, and, well, they both look like cats. But the wildcat is fierce and feral, whereas the housecat, thanks to nearly 10,000 years of domestication, is tame and adaptable enough to have become the world's most popular pet. Now scientists have begun to pinpoint the genetic changes that drove this remarkable transformation. The findings, based on the first high-quality sequence of the cat genome, could shed light on how other creatures become tame.

**What does the blurb tell us?**

**What's the MI of this first paragraph?**

# The SAT Reading Section: **Mapping a Passage**

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**What does the blurb tell us?**

Place a housecat next to its direct ancestor, the Near Eastern wildcat, and it may take you a minute to spot the difference. They're about the same size and shape, and, well, they both look like cats. **But** the wildcat is fierce and feral, whereas the housecat, thanks to nearly 10,000 years of domestication, is tame and adaptable enough to have become the world's most popular pet. Now scientists have begun to pinpoint the genetic changes that drove this remarkable transformation. **The findings, based on the first high-quality sequence of the cat genome, could shed light on how other creatures become tame.**

**Topic sentence info**

**Contrast word!**

**Thesis!**

# The SAT Reading Section: **Mapping a Passage**

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**The main purpose of the passage is to:**

- A) summarize a study of the genetic differences between various breeds of domestic cats.
- B) describe findings regarding the benefits that cats provided to humans as a result of domestication.
- C) discuss research into the genetic changes that cats underwent as part of domestication.
- D) present experimental evidence contrasting the behavior of wildcats and domestic cats.