

READING 97 SAMPLE READING ASSIGNMENT FOR EARLY IN THE COURSE

I. RECOGNIZE MAIN AND SUBORDINATE IDEAS IN PARAGRAPHS AND CENTRAL IDEAS IN LONGER WORKS

A. (1-7) Directions: Complete the outline of the following paragraph by adding words to the main idea and filling in the missing major and minor details. Note that addition words introduce the major details and some of the minor details as well.

1) Several factors influenced the justice system's treatment of criminals. 2) For one thing, the sex of offenders affects the severity of sentences. 3) A woman is less likely to receive the death penalty than a man. 4) Also, the court is more reluctant to send a mother to prison than a father. 5) Another factor in the treatment of offenders is their race. 6) Nonwhites are awarded parole and probation less often. 7) In addition, blacks are executed more often for capital crimes. 8) Finally, the age of offenders is considered in sentencing. 9) Young offenders are given special treatment. 10) And the elderly are given more lenient sentences.

Main Idea: _____ influence the justice system's treatment of criminals.

Major detail: 1. _____

Minor details: a. Woman less likely to receive death penalty than a man

b. _____

Major details: 2. _____

Minor details: a. _____

b. _____

Major details: 3. Age of offenders considered in sentencing

Minor details: a. _____

b. More lenient sentences for the elderly

B. (8-10)

8. The addition word that signals the second major detail is:

A) In addition B) for one thing C) also D) Finally

9. The list words that tell what type of details will follow are

A) several factors B) treatment of criminals C) treatment of offenders

10. The addition word that signals the third major detail is:

A) In addition B) for one thing C) also D) Finally

(Adapted from Ten Steps to IMPROVING College Reading Skills, John Langan, 6th edition, 2014, Chapter 3, Supporting Details, p. 121.)

II. MAKE INFERENCES AND DRAW CONCLUSIONS EITHER EXPLICIT OR IMPLICIT, FROM READING MATERIALS AT THE COLLEGE LEVELS

Directions: Read the following passage. Then, in the space provided, write the letter of the most logical answer to each question, based on the information given in the passage.

1) A corporate president recently made a visit to a nearby Native American reservation as part of his firm's public-relations program. 2) "We realize that we have not hired any Indians in the five years our company has been located in this area," he told the assembled tribespeople, "but we are looking into the matter very carefully." 3) "*Hora, hora,*" said some of the audience. 4) "We would like to eventually hire 5 percent of our total work force from this reservation," he said. 5) "*Hora, hora,*" shouted the audience. 6) Encourage by their enthusiasm, the president closed his short address by telling them that he hoped his firm would be able to take some hiring action within the next couple of years. 7) "*Hora, hora, hora,*" cried the total group. 8) With a feeling of satisfaction, the president left the hall and was taken on a tour of the reservation. 9) Stopping in a field to admire some of the horses grazing there, the president asked if he could walk up closer to the animals. 10) "*Certainly,*" said his guide, "but be careful not to step in the *hora.*"

___11. To get the main point of this passage, the reader must infer

- A) the location of the reservation.
- B) what kind of company the president headed.
- C) the meaning of the word *hora*.

___12. From the passage, we can infer that the audience

- A) believed the president's speech.
- B) did not believe the president's speech.
- C) was confused by the president's speech.

___13. From the passage, we can infer that the president

- A) thought the Native Americans deserved to be hired.
- B) thought his company should not hire the Native Americans.
- C) misinterpreted the Native Americans' reaction to his speech.

(Adapted from Ten Steps to IMPROVING College Reading Skills, John Langan, 6th edition, 2014, Chapter 7, Inferences, pp. 277-278.)