

Module 1: How Readers Actually Read

Interactive Practice

Name: _____ Date: _____

Part 1: A Good Example

Read this short passage and notice how effortlessly it moves:

Vaccines train the immune system to recognise a threat before that threat arrives. The immune system detects the vaccine, builds a defense, and stores that defense. When the same threat later returns, that stored defense activates immediately.

Discussion Question:

What made that passage easy to read? List at least three specific features you noticed:

1.

2.

3.

Part 2: The Five Reader Expectations

You have just experienced the five reader expectations in action. Here they are again:

1. Parallelism

2. Familiar information first: start with what the reader already knows

3. New information last: end with new information

4. Verbs show the action

5. Subject and verb should be close together

Part 3: Two Versions

Below are two versions of the same paragraph about climate change. Read both versions carefully, then answer the questions that follow.

Version A

Rising global temperatures drive climate change. These temperatures melt polar ice caps, raise sea levels, and disrupt weather patterns. Weather disruptions cause more frequent droughts, floods, and storms. These extreme events threaten food production, damage infrastructure, and displace communities.

Version B

The driving force behind climate change is the rise in global temperatures. The melting of polar ice caps, the raising of sea levels, and the disruption of weather patterns are caused by these temperature increases. More frequent droughts, floods, and storms result from these disruptions in weather. Food production threats, infrastructure damage, and community displacement occur due to these extreme events.

Question 1: Which version better serves the reader? Circle your answer:

Version A Version B

Question 2: Using the five reader expectations, explain what makes your chosen version easier to read. Identify at least TWO specific expectations that work better in your chosen version:

Expectation #1: _____

How it works:

Expectation #2: _____

How it works:

Question 3: Look at the first sentence in each version. Which version puts the action in the verb? Quote the specific words that show this:

Question 4: In Version B, identify one sentence where the subject and verb are separated. What gets in the way?

Sentence:

What separates them:

Reflection:

Based on this exercise, complete this sentence:

"A sentence that serves the reader is one that..."