

Standardized Tests – Common Question Stems **Answer Key**

Question Stems Word/Phrases	Translation	Strategy for Answering
The primary purpose of the passage.....	The main idea of the passage...	Think about it and review any sum it up notes or notes made while reading. Review the 5 Ws of the passage.
The passage asserts	The text says....	Locate and scan the passage. Identify the topic of the passage.
The authors purpose	The main point is	Review the 5 Ws of the passage.
The main function of the second paragraph	The main idea of the second paragraph is ...	Look it up and read 1-2 lines before and 1-2 lines after.
As it is defined in the passage....	In this passage the word _____ means.	Look it up and see what the word, in context , means.
The passage suggests ...	The passage gives hints, but does not directly state....	This is an inference question. What do you think the passage is hinting at, but not specifically stating.
The author states....	The author says...	What does the author say /state regarding the topic.
According to the passage....	Based on the information found in the passage...	Based on the information you have, what can be summarized.
The passage indicates....	The passage points out or explains briefly	What does the passage point out or explain.
The author claims.....	The author says....	Identify the author's stance on the topic. You may review supporting evidence provided later in the passage to assist with this.
The primary focus of lines 30-50...	The main idea of lines 30-50	Look it up and read 2 lines before and 2 lines after to understand context more.
The author's attitude toward the subject ...	How does the author feel about the subject?	Identify the mood of the passage. This is an inference question regarding how the author feels towards the subject.

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The author's attitude toward the subject ...		