

Laura Link's Steps to ACT Reading

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Step 1. Do the passages in order of difficulty. Take 45 seconds to 2 minutes max to code the passages in order of difficulty. How? Look at the intro notes and the first sentence or two. Look for high level vocab, long sentences and complex ideas. In the intro notes, consider where it was published. A book or a popular magazine will be easier than a journal or a speech.

Step 2. Decide if you want to read the item stems (questions) first. If you do, do it very quickly.

Step 3. Read the passage in 2 minute 45 seconds. Read every word, but DO NOT linger over hard parts or try to figure out parts you don't understand. Underline key words as you read. Key words include signal words that indicate relationship, compare/contrast, cause/effect and sequence of events.

Step 4. Spend the most time understanding the question. Underline words in the question itself. Pay attention to things that have opposites or distinctions. Determine the ITEM TYPE:

1. Main Idea
2. Explicit Detail
3. Development
4. Inference
5. Vocabulary

6. Application

7. Voice