

Noticing the Conversation

A. "With sincere apologies to the old song, the children are not the future. They are the present. They are not going to lead the way one day. They are leading it right now" (Feil, 2007).

Questions for Group Discussion

1. On the basis of these sentences, what do you think is the subject of the text on which they were based? What rules of notice helped you?

2. How do you expect this text to fit in with the ongoing conversation about this subject? What makes you think so?

3. Please complete the following sentence frame based on the prediction you made above.

Although conventional wisdom has it that _____,
the author of this statement points out instead that _____.

B. It is already understood that technology has a huge effect on shaping the human brain and changing how it functions, but the effects of cell phone use while driving is an especially scary case (based on Richtel, 2014).

Questions for Group Discussion

1. On the basis of this sentence, what do you think is the central topic of the book on which it is based? What rules of notice helped you?

2. How do you expect this text to fit in with the ongoing conversation about the topic?

3. Please complete the following sentence frame based on the prediction you made above.

Although we already know that _____,
the author of this statement argues that the problem is extended and exacerbated when _____

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C. "Whenever there is a mass shooting in the United States, it doesn't take long before pundits suggest violent video games might be to blame" (Casey, 2015).

Questions for Group Discussion

1. On the basis of this sentence, what do you think is the subject of the text from which it was taken? What rules of notice helped you?

2. How do you expect this text to fit in with the ongoing conversation about this subject? What makes you think so?

3. Please complete the following sentence frame based on the prediction you made above.

Although some people believe _____,
the author of this statement believes _____.

D. "We often talk about soldiers, firefighters and fictional characters with supernatural powers as heroes. Recently, the news media have used the term to describe three Americans who helped foil an attack on a speeding train in Europe. But what really is a hero? Does heroism always involve physical strength, or are there other qualities that define being a hero?" (Gonchar, 2015).

Questions for Group Discussion

1. On the basis of these sentences, what do you think is the subject of the text from which they were taken? What rules of notice helped you?

2. How do you expect this text to fit in with the ongoing conversation about this subject? What makes you think so?

3. Please complete the following sentence frame based on the prediction you made above.

Although conventional wisdom has it that _____,
the author of this statement argues that _____.

E. "I really didn't think my two fourth graders could complete their homework assignment on their own: 'Prepare a five-minute-long speech from a biography, to be delivered, not read, from notes on index cards, in costume and in character and with at least one prop.' An impossible task for a 10-year-old,

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I thought, as I braced for the battle that would surely be involved in dragging them both through the project" (Dell'Antonia, 2016).

Questions for Group Discussion

1. On the basis of these sentences, what do you think is the subject of the text from which they were taken? What rules of notice helped you?

2. How do you expect this text to fit in with the ongoing conversation about this subject? What makes you think so?

3. Please complete the following sentence frame based on the prediction you made above.

Although this author initially believed _____,
she eventually came to understand that _____.

F. "There are many men who have argued over the ages that women don't have enough mental strength to become morally good on their own: they need the guidance of men" (Wollstonecraft, 1792).

Questions for Group Discussion

1. On the basis of this sentence, what do you think is the subject of the text from which it was taken? What rules of notice helped you?

2. How do you expect this text to fit in with the ongoing conversation about this subject? What makes you think so?

3. Please complete the following sentence frame based on the prediction you made above.

Although throughout the ages men have contended _____,
the author of this statement argues _____.

Sources: Casey, M. (2015, August 17). Do violent video games lead to criminal behavior? *CBS News*. Retrieved from <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/do-violent-video-games-lead-to-criminal-behavior>; Dell'Antonia, K. J. (2016, March 22). "Impossible" homework assignment? Let your child do it. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2016/03/22/fourth-grade-book-report-let-your-fourth-grader-do-it>; Feil, E. (2007). The world is in their hands. In D. W. Moore, D. J. Short, M. W. Smith, & A. W. Tatum (Eds.), *Hampton-Brown EDGE Level B*. Carmel, CA: National Geographic School Publishing/Hampton Brown; Gonchar, M. (2015, August 25). What is a hero? *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/08/25/what-is-a-hero>; Richtel, M. (2014). *A deadly wandering*. New York, NY: HarperCollins; Wollstonecraft, M. (1792). *A vindication of the rights of women*. Boston, MA: Peter Edes.