**SAT Reading Comprehension Strategies**

**1. Reading Actively (aka Passage Mapping)**

**2. Examine the Question Stem**

**3. Predict the Answer**

**Wilson, War and Peace – World War 1**

**Active** **Reading** **Notes**

* *Circle Key Words, underline key phrases*
* *Ask questions as you read:*
  + *Why did the author write this word/detail/ sentence/paragraph?*
  + *Is the author taking a side? If so, what side is he or she taking?*
  + *What is the tone and purpose of the passage?*
* *Note the following:* 
  + *The ‘why’ or the main idea of the passage*
  + *Transitions or changes in direction in a passage’s logic*
  + *The author’s opinions and other options the author cities*
  + *The author’s tone and purpose*

When the United States entered World War I in the spring of 1917, the conflict had become a deadly, bloody stalemate. The war would be won or lost on the Western Front in France. Since 1914, both sides had tried desperately to break the stalemate there – and failed. The American entry into the war would play a key role in the Allied victory.

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To European leaders, the United States was a great unknown. Ethnic divisions in America raised questions about how committed American troops would be in combat. Some doubled that the United States could raise, train, equip, and transport an army fast enough to influence the outcome of the war. Desperate German military leaders renewed unrestricted submarine warfare, hoping to end the conflict before the Americans could make a difference.

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The Allies immediately felt the impact of the renewed unrestricted submarine warfare. German U-boats sank merchant ships in alarming numbers, faster than replacements could be built. As one merchant ship after another sank to the bottom of the sea, the Allies lost crucial supplies. Together, the Allies addressed the problem of submarine warfare by adopting an old naval tactic: convoying. In a convoy, groups of merchant ships sailed together, protected by warships. The arrangement was designed to provide mutual safety at sea. Convoys made up of British and American Ships proved to be an instant success. Shipping losses from U-boat attacks fell as sharply as they had risen. Germany’s gamble had failed.

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General John J. Pershing, the commander of American forces in Europe, arrived in France in June 1917, with a small American force.

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However, it was not until early 1918 that American troops began arriving in larger numbers. At about the same time, the German offensive began to stall. By the end of March 1918, Allied counterattacks and German exhaustion ended the great German offensive. More fighting followed, and with each passing week, American troops assumed more of the burden on the battlefield. Germany launched several more offensives. Allied defenses buckled and stretched but did not break. Each failed offensive weakened Germany a bit more and raised Allied hopes.

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**Active** **Reading** **Notes**

American troops called “doughboys,” contributed significantly to the action in the late spring and summer of 1918. Americans fought on the defensive along with the French at the Second Battle of the Marne and on the offensive at the Battle of Cantigny, where they dislodged a large German force from fortified positons. They battled valiantly at Chateau-Thierry and Belleau Wood, Meuse-Argonne and Saint-Mihiel. Although it took some time, American troops learned quickly and fought bravely. By the end of the war, 1.3 million American soldiers had served on the front, more than 50,000 had lost their lives, and about 230,000 had been wounded.

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The American troops, added to those of France, Britain, and Italy, gave the allies a military advantage. By the fall of 1918, the German and Auto-Hungarian armies had had enough. Some men deserted, others mutinied, and many refused to fight. Their leaders faced little choice but to surrender. On November 11, 1918, Germany surrendered to the Allies in a railway car in Compiegne, France. The war was over. Of the millions of soldiers who mobilized to fight, almost 5 million Allied and 8 million Central Power troops were dead. Nearly 6.5 million civilians were also dead, victims of the terrible conflict. It was left to the peace-makers to determine whether the results would justify the costs.

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**SAT Question Stems:**

* 1. **Global** (Central ideas/ Thesis)
  2. **Detail** (‘*According to the Passage*’)
  3. **Command of Evidence**
     + Support your answer to the previous question (‘Lines 1-2,’)
  4. **Inference**
     + Infer relationships within the reading
     + Cause & effect, compare & contrast, etc.
  5. **Vocab-In-Context** 
     + (“*As used in line 7, ‘clairvoyant’ most likely means”)*
  6. **Rhetoric**
     + Analyzing purpose, point of view, word choice
  7. **Synthesis**
     + Use quantitative information & infographics, Compare & contrast from 2 different passages

**Sample Questions:**

\_\_\_\_\_1. The main purpose of this passage is to

A). Explain the last year of World War 1.

B). Examine the impact that unrestricted submarine warfare had on Allied troops.

C). Explain American involvement in World War 1.

D). Discuss battle tactics used in World War 1 and the outcomes of these tactics.

Identify this question type: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_2. Which of the following best describes American involvement in World War 1?

A). The Americans helped win the war by devising the convoy system.

B). American troops played a large role in winning the battles of 1918.

C). The Allies lost almost 5 million soldiers during the war.

D). American supplies made a large difference despite German unrestricted submarine warfare.

Identify this question type: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_3. Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

A). Line 5, (“The American entry… Allied victory.”)

B). Line 18, (“Together, the Allies… convoying.”)

C). Line 31, (“By the end of March 1918,… German offensive.”)

D). Line 38, (“American troops,… summer of 1918.”)

Identify this question type: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_4. As it is used in line 43, ‘valiantly’ most nearly means,

A). courageously

B). chivalrously

C). brashly

D). magnanimously

Identify this question type: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_5. According to the author’s point of view, what is the most likely reason for the end of WW1?

A). The success of the convoy system.

B). The high death tolls for the Central Powers.

C). The refusal of the German and Austro-Hungarian troops to fight anymore.

D). The entry of The United States into the war.

Identify this question type: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Create 5 of Your Own SAT Questions**

\_\_\_\_\_4.

A).

B).

C).

D).

\_\_\_\_\_5.

A).

B).

C).

D).

\_\_\_\_\_1.

A).

B).

C).

D).

\_\_\_\_\_2.

A).

B).

C).

D).

\_\_\_\_\_3.

A).

B).

C).

D).