**Reading an Editorial “A Modest Rebuttal”**

The purpose of most editorials is to advance an argument or comment on the important issues of the day. Your job as the reader is to understand and evaluate the assertions the writer makes.

**Before Reading**

1. Set a Purpose

Your purpose is to understand the author’s viewpoint, evaluate how persuasively the point is supported, and decide how you feel about it.

* To set your purpose, ask questions about the viewpoint and support.
* Directions: Write your purpose for reading the editorial “A Modest Rebuttal.”

Purpose Question #1 :

Purpose Question #2 :

Purpose Question #3 :

1. Preview

Your main goal when previewing is to get a sense of the subject of the editorial.

* + Look closely at the following items: the headline and date, any repeated words, the first and last paragraphs, and the writer’s assertion.
  + I think the editorial is going to be about

1. Plan

After your preview, make a plan for reading. Choose a strategy that can help you take note of the author’s assertions (statements about the topic) and the support for the assertions.

* Use the strategy of questioning the author to help you find the writer’s assertions and support.

**During Reading**

1. Read with a Purpose

* Directions: Do a careful reading of the editorial. Ask questions of the author.

Why does the author begin this way?

What point is the author trying to make here?

How does this information support the author’s assertion?

What action are readers supposed to take or how are readers supposed to feel as a result of this editorial?

* Directions: Record your answers to these critical reading questions.

1. What topic is the writer discussing?

1. How does the writer feel about the topic?
2. What are the writer’s assertions?

1. How does the writer support the assertions?
2. What do I think about this topic?
3. How do my thoughts compare with those of the writer?

Understanding How Editorials Are Organized

Most editorials contain assertions, support for the assertions, and a recommendation.

1. Assertion

Supporting Detail

1. Assertion

Supporting Detail

1. Recommendations
2. Connect

Connect to an editorial by recording your thoughts and feelings.

* Directions: Reread the final two paragraphs of the editorial. Then, make notes stating how you feel about the writer’s arguments.

**After Reading**

1. Pause and Reflect

* After you finish an editorial, ask yourself, “Do I understand the author’s ideas and opinions?”
* Directions: Answer these questions.

What is the “modest rebuttal”?

Can you explain how the writer supports the viewpoint?

Do you know how you feel about the editorial?

1. Reread

* Directions: Copy the Synthesizing Chart from the board and complete.

1. Remember

* Directions: Write a brief letter to a friend. In your letter, explain the writer’s point in “A Modest Rebuttal” and your opinion of it.