

## Lesson 2: Understanding key points of non-fiction texts

**Goal 2.01d:** Student will demonstrate the ability to read, listen to and view a variety of increasingly complex print and non-print informational texts by demonstrating comprehension of main idea and supporting details.

**Non-fiction Text:** "Survey: Many students say cheating's okay"

### Guided Practice:

Before you read, take some time to predict what you think this article will be about. Use the following questions to guide your predictions:

1. Based on the title, what will the main idea of this article be?
2. What stance do you think the author will take on the subject? Will this be an article with a positive or a negative tone?
3. What types of facts or evidence do you think will be in the article?
4. What effect will this evidence have on your opinion of the author's article?

NOTE: Many times we can focus our reading just by taking a minute to predict some things about what it is we're going to read. In the independent practice section, think about the predictions you made. Look to see if your predictions were right. Make a mental note of how each prediction is either fulfilled or unfulfilled as you read the actual text.

### Independent Practice:

Follow the link to the CNN Article on cheating. Read the entire article and then answer the questions below:

<http://archives.cnn.com/2002/fyi/teachers.ednews/04/05/highschool.cheating/index.html>

1. Which of the following BEST expresses the main idea of this article?
  - A. Internet companies make it easy to cheat
  - B. Students have bad examples set for them by adults
  - C. Cheating is viewed as being morally acceptable by a majority of students.
  - D. Companies that help catch cheaters will be very successful.
2. Which of the following is NOT a detail that supports the main idea of this article?
  - A. 75% of students surveyed have participated in "serious cheating"
  - B. Students report that adults have set a bad example of integrity for them.
  - C. Turnitin.com will check student papers for cheating.
  - D. Turnitin.com reports that a third of all submitted papers have been plagiarized

Read the following quotation from the article and then answer the questions below:

"What's important is getting ahead," says Newhall. "The better grades you have, the better school you get into, the better you're going to do in life. And if you learn to cut corners to do that, you're going to be saving yourself time and energy. In the real world, that's what's going to be going on. The better you do, that's what shows. It's not how moral you were in getting there."

3. The author most likely included this quote to generate what effect on the reader?
  - A. Pride that the student has learned the way the "real world" works
  - B. Outrage that society has taught students to look at the world so negatively
  - C. The author has no purpose in including this quote
  - D. The author wants the reader to be scared of such immoral students.

4. What does this student say is MOST IMPORTANT about school and about life?
  - A. Doing well
  - B. Being moral
  - C. Being lazy
  - D. Having fun
  
5. Which of the following best describes the TONE of the article? (Note: tone is the author's attitude toward the subject he/she is writing about.)
  - A. Enthusiastic
  - B. Fearful
  - C. Concerned
  - D. Joyful

**Closure:**

Check your answers:

1. C
2. C
3. B
4. A
5. C

How did you do?

For each question that you missed, look at the correct response and think about why that response was the correct one. What element of the question did you miss when you answered incorrectly? How might you avoid making that same mistake in the future? If you did not miss any, congratulations! If you did miss a few, use the following tips when answering questions like these in the future:

1. **Read the question completely and all answers completely.** Sometimes you can answer incorrectly just because you didn't pay close attention to what the question was asking you for, or because you missed a detail in one of the responses. Take your time.
  
2. **Pay very close attention to questions that ask for the BEST or the MOST LIKELY answer.** In these questions, the test will often trick you because more than one answer could be correct. What you have to do in these circumstances is think which one is the best.