

Reading For Thinking (7th Edition)

Words and Definitions for Review for Chapters 1 – 10

For ease of oral review in class, the list contains all the footnoted words defined in the chapters.

CHAPTER 1: ACQUIRING THE KEYS TO ACADEMIC SUCCESS

apocalypse:	total devastation, an earth-shattering disaster
monopolies:	companies that gain complete control over the production of a product and are not subject to competition in the marketplace.
progressive:	person committed to social change.

CHAPTER 2: VOCABULARY BUILDING FOR COLLEGE READING

abstruse:	complicated or difficult
acclaimed:	praised; celebrated
affluent:	wealthy; rich
allusions:	references to people, places, and events that writers make to explain their ideas
amend:	to modify, change, or fix, often involving a legal document
antipathy:	dislike; hostility; hatred
aroma:	smell
assertive:	willing to put forth one's opinions and wishes
cathartic:	emotional
circuitous:	indirect or roundabout
cognitive:	related to thought rather than being a purely emotional response
commercial:	related to commerce, or the buying and selling of goods, with profit as the chief aim.
constituents:	members of a party or group, parts of a whole
conveyance:	mode of transportation
correlation:	connection; relationship
daunting:	discouraging; difficult
diligently:	carefully; with great effort
distinctions:	differences
dynamics:	the social, intellectual, or moral forces that produce an event, an effect, or a change.
elite:	belonging to the upper class; wealthy; having special privileges or abilities

embargo:	a government order prohibiting the movement of ships or trade
embellish:	exaggerate
engulf:	swallow; descend into
expenditures:	outlays of money
federal:	related to a form of government in which individual states recognize a central authority.
filibuster:	prolonged speech, or series of speeches, made to delay action in a legislative assembly
genetic:	due to heredity; inheritable; transmissible
gerrymandering:	redrawing of voting districts so as to favor one party
hallucinations:	delusions
hierarchy:	ranking system from low to high; system
homonyms:	words that sound the same but are spelled differently and have different meanings
ideology;	the set of beliefs that forms the basis for political, economic, or social systems
illegible:	unreadable
incarcerated:	imprisoned
incumbent:	sitting in office
inequitable:	unequal
infidelity:	unfaithfulness
inundated:	flooded; overwhelmed
legible:	readable
legitimacy	being lawful or in accordance with accepted standards or laws
linguist:	a person who is an expert in language
linguistic:	related to language
longitudinal:	extending over a long period of time
memorabilia:	souvenirs; things that come from the old days
meticulous:	carefully organized
mitigate:	modify; reduce
myriad:	great number
narrative:	tale
norms:	standards of behavior considered typical; unwritten but understood rules of society
obsolete:	out-of-date
ordinance:	law; rule
ostentatious:	being showy; trying to impress
partisan:	devoted to or strongly in favor of a particular position, theory, cause or approach;

	also a dedicated supporter.
peers:	like-minded people often close to us in age
per capita:	by the head; per person
personification:	talking about things or events as if they were people.
physiology:	the branch of biology dealing with how physical organisms function
populace:	population; people
procrastination:	postponing; putting things off
proponents:	supporters
provisional:	temporary
ramifications:	consequences; results
ratify:	to give formal approval
regime:	government; rule; leaders
relevant:	related
retain:	hold onto; keep
scores:	many; numerous
stalwart:	brave
stave off:	fight off; hold back
stimulus:	motive or cause of action
tedium:	boredom
tenacious:	determined; aggressive
therapeutic:	having to do with the treatment of disease and producing a beneficial effect
titillating:	superficially stimulating
trepidation:	anxiety; fear
vanquished:	conquered
vituperation:	insult; violent attack

CHAPTER 3: REVIEWING PARAGRAPH ESSENTIALS

agitated:	upset
albeit:	even though, notwithstanding
alleviates:	improves, makes better
boorish:	crude, disrespectful of others, vulgar
bureaucracy:	a large organization divided into numerous offices or bureaus, each with its own staff
condescension:	behaving as if one were superior in some way

conventional:	traditional, standard
dehydration:	fluid loss
dissidents:	people who openly disagree with the policies of their government
flaunt:	show off
hierarchies:	levels or rankings of people based on authority or importance
incidence:	extent or frequency of occurrence
injunction:	rule or law forbidding some action or behavior
intensive:	characterized by great power, strength, or force
metabolism:	a complex of physical and chemical processes in the body that maintain life
proliferate:	grow in number, multiply
ritually:	according to a prescribed order, in the form of a ceremony
sentient:	conscious; capable of feeling
tenets:	rules, principles, or beliefs held to be true by a person or an organization
tranquil:	peaceful, calming

CHAPTER 4: IDENTIFYING AND LEARNING FROM ORGANIZATIONAL PATTERNS

arbitrary:	lacking any fixed rule or consistency, based on personal whim
assuage:	calm or soothe
attributed:	related to a particular source or cause
compulsive:	involuntary, uncontrollable
deity:	god
duplicity:	double-dealing, deliberate dishonesty in behavior or speech
espionage:	spying or using spies to obtain secret information
facade:	the face or front of a building; also a pretence or disguise
geologist:	scientist who studies the past and present makeup of the earth
grandiose:	having an exaggerated sense of one's importance or influence
interrogation:	formal questioning conducted by persons in authority
judicial:	related to the courts
liaison:	go between
ominously:	dangerously, threateningly
organic:	related to living matter
preoccupied:	overly concerned with something, also absorbed in thought
renowned:	famous, respected
subterranean:	beneath the earth
surveillance:	observation

symmetrically: being almost exactly the same in appearance or location

CHAPTER 5: UNDERSTANDING, OUTLINING AND SUMMARIZING LONGER READINGS

advocates:	supporters, believers
alleged:	claimed but not yet proven beyond a doubt
assertive:	outspoken, willing to speak one's mind
assumption:	widely held belief that is left unstated and rarely questioned
concession:	admission of agreement or defeat
contemporary:	modern, current
empirical:	based on experiment, observation and fact
fluctuating:	changing, going up and down
havoc:	widespread destruction, often used with the verb <i>wreak</i> meaning "inflict" and rhyming with <i>week</i>
ingratiate:	to get oneself into the good graces of another
intrepid:	brave, fearless
liability:	drawback
longevity:	long life, length or duration of life
lucrative:	profitable
rapacious:	greedy and destructive
reputable:	having a good reputation
threes:	caught up in excitement
sacrilege:	treating religious objects with disrespect, expressing contempt or disrespect for objects or ideas sacred to others
void:	empty space, state of emptiness
zealously:	enthusiastically, often excessively so

CHAPTER 6: THE ROLE OF INFERENCES IN COMPREHENSION AND CRITICAL READING

aggregate:	as a whole, in combination with other elements, in the big picture
alienation:	the condition of being withdrawn and unresponsive
aspirations:	hopes, dreams, desires
boon:	gift, benefit
bounty:	gifts
coalesce:	combine, form around, connect
conservation:	protecting and preserving the environment

discretion:	sound judgment
espionage:	spying
esteemed:	respected
guru:	wise person
ingenious:	clever, forward-thinking
insatiable:	never satisfied
introspective:	inward-looking, thoughtful
irrationally:	without reason or logic, not based on reason
lobbied:	worked to influence government officials
mandate:	legal right, authority, also used as a verb meaning to authorize or enact a law
orientations:	leanings, tendencies
penitent:	person confessing sins or person who feels sorry for bad behavior, also used as an adjective to describe behavior
phenomenon:	happening, event
prominent:	famous, well known
pun:	a humorous play on words, “I do it for the pun of it”
recluses:	people who want to be alone and shun the presence of others

CHAPTER 7: SYNTHESIZING SOURCES

castigated:	harshly criticized or punished
diabolical:	evil
doctrine:	principle, theory
espionage:	spying
exploitation:	using others to benefit one’s self
harrowing:	painful to experience
liaison:	contact who maintains communication between two different groups, also a close relationship
meted out:	distributed, given
sabotage:	destructive actions used to hinder or defeat the activity of others
vilified:	insulted, criticized

CHAPTER 8: DEFINING THE TERMS *FACT* AND *OPINION*

abate:	cease, stop
beguiled:	fascinated
lore:	accumulated facts, traditions, knowledge, often with the implication of

	being informally learned or acquired
mystical:	spiritual, mysterious
naturalist:	person who studies and writes about the plants and animals in nature
ordinance:	rule or regulation
pundits:	public sources of opinion, people who give an opinion through the mass media and who, allegedly, are knowledgeable about the topic discussed
solicitation:	the act of approaching someone for sexual or monetary purposes, also to persuasively ask for something other than money or sex, for instance votes or information
spatial:	related to location in space
virtually:	practically, nearly

CHAPTER 9: MORE ON PURPOSE AND TONE

affidavits:	legal documents made under an oath that says the statements made in the document are true
compassionate:	sympathetic
deliberations:	careful and thoughtful thinking
denigrates:	ridicules; insults
devastation:	destruction
discretion:	ability or power to decide
hypothetically:	in theory, theoretically
illuminated:	lit, shining, also made understandable, clarified
immersion:	deep involvement, concentration, also the physical act of sinking into water
inaugurate:	start, begin, open
inevitably:	unavoidably
recourse:	chance of applying for or getting aid
stodgiest:	lacking in life; without energy

CHAPTER 10: ANALYZING ARGUMENTS

crux:	core; heart; key point
debilitating:	weakening, causes a lack of energy
dynamics:	interactions, patterns of behavior
mandatory:	required or commanded by authority
messianic:	having a zealous devotion to a cause

status quo:	existing state of affairs
transparency:	openness, ease of visibility
valid:	justified, just, well-grounded in reason or proof, also up-to-date
vested interest:	having a special reason to promote or protect that which gives one a personal advantage.
vile:	disgusting, despicable