

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Comprehend What You Read

Getting a complete understanding of what you are reading is important, and by practicing reading comprehension techniques, not only will you improve your understanding of the content, but you will be better able to utilize the information you have learned because of the thinking processes involved in reading critically.

## **Before You Read:**

- ☐ Look at the title of the piece of writing to get an idea about the subject matter
- ☐ Think about what you already know about the topic
- ☐ Think about your purpose for reading
- ☐ Skim the piece of writing to help you select appropriate reading strategies

## **While You Read:**

- ☐ Focus your attention on the piece of writing
- ☐ Use context clues to help you understand unfamiliar words and terminology
- ☐ Pick out main ideas
- ☐ Think about how the details and facts provided relate back to the main ideas
- ☐ Distinguish between facts and opinions
- ☐ When appropriate, make observations about how both facts and opinions are used in the article to support an argument
- ☐ Ask yourself what inferences are being made in the piece of writing
- ☐ Pay attention to the tone of the piece of writing

## **After You Read:**

- ☐ Reflect on what you have read
- ☐ Summarize what you learned from your reading
- ☐ Ask yourself what questions you have as a result of your reading
- ☐ Seek additional information about the topic and your questions from reliable/expert sources

In the space below, you will practice the reading comprehension strategies described above. As you work through each phase, record your answers in the space provided.

**Before I Read:**

1. Based on the title, I thought the piece of writing was about....
2. Some things I already know about this topic are....
3. My purpose for reading this article was....
4. After I skimmed the article, some strategies I decided to use when I read it were....

**While I Read:**

1. The unfamiliar words/terms I encountered are listed below along with what I think each word meant in the article.
2. The main idea(s) of the article are listed below.
3. Important details and facts I found to support these main ideas were....
4. Opinions that were used in the article included....
5. Ways that facts and opinions were used to support an idea or argument were....
6. Inferences made in the articles included....

7. The tone of this piece of writing suggested....

**After I Read:**

1. I had the following thoughts/reflections about the piece of writing....

2. I could summarize this piece of writing by saying....

3. The questions I had about this topic after reading this piece of writing were....

4. Some other sources I could use to learn more about the topic or my questions could include...