

## Ms. Leclaire's Prose Passage Reminders, In a Nutshell



*You've loved reading since forever. All you have to do is find a little love for the passage you're reading.*

To help streamline our workshops throughout the year, I've taken everything we've covered and condensed it into one page. If you'd like to have this out during the test, make sure you print it or make your own copy of it (don't open any shared documents during the exam). You've got this!

**Step 1:** Read and mark up **the prompt** carefully. The prompt tells us what to look for. **If the prompt asks about a relationship, I treat the relationship like it's a character.**

**Step 2:** Read carefully **the first inch and the last inch**. Whatever we're looking for--the first inch and last inch tell us what it looks like. What shifts from the first inch to the last inch?

**Step 3:** Read the passage from start to finish, using Steps 1 and 2 to guide your focus.

- Relax into the passage; try to find the joy in reading it. Picture the characters and imagine yourself in the setting. Read parts aloud if it helps.
- Create a visual way to track **shifts**; if you're printing the passage, try **highlighters**. If you're not printing, make a quick **graphic organizer**.
- **DRAW A LINE** when you see a significant shift to separate the passage into two or three main sections.

**Step 4:** Consider using the shifts to **structure your essay by insight**. For example, your first body paragraph could be an insight you have about the passage before the shift, and your second body paragraph could be an insight you have about the passage after the shift.

- Start your thesis and topic sentences with your **insights**, not your literary devices.
- **Unpack your quotations** closely and thoroughly. Thomas Foster is watching you.
- Be sure to address **the final inch** of the passage since this is where tone lives; bring in a quotation from the very end of the passage to keep your analysis on track.

**Step 5:** You're a beautiful, unique writer. Discover as you compose, and show your joy for writing!