

Practice Table 2: Reading for Content – Sample Answers

Reading Source:

[Wohlsen, M \(9/15, 2014\). "Digital Literacy is the Key to the Future," WIRED.](#)

Topic

Identify the larger topic or focus

- What topic or social debate is being addressed in this article?
- Does the author seem to have a clear focus on a particular question or issue?
- Does the author seem to offer a particular opinion or stance on a topic or issue?

- Success in the future depends on digital literacy
- Digital literacy is "the idea that the world's citizens, and kids in particular, will benefit if they're skilled in the ways of information technology"

Wohlsen engages with a particular social debate or problem: What does it mean to be digitally literate? How well should be able to use information technology? What does "learning to code" really include?

Main Idea

Identify the main message

- Is the author trying to teach us something? Persuade us of something? What?
- What do you think Wohlsen most wants us to understand by reading his article?
- Can you find one place where the article states this main idea? Is it in the introduction? Or does it come later in the piece?

- Wohlsen argues that we have to define what skills children really need to be digitally literate so that they learn and are prepared for the future
- More specifically, drawing on several interviews, he argues that digital literacy should be about understanding the logic of computer coding, "computational thinking" or having an "algorithmic mindset," more than simply being able to use technology or even use a programming language.

Map

Map the key points

- a. Make a list of the key points offered in the article
 - b. Note how each point relates to the main idea
 - c. Focus on the most necessary ideas
- We have to provide our children with the skills they need so they can shape the future in the ways they need to
 - With the critical thinking skills informed by the logic of computational thinking the next generation will be able to make technology do what they want it to do
 - This must be distinguished from simply knowing how to use technology; we need to be creators rather than consumers.
 - If we mistake the ability to use computers with the ability to think within the logical of computer coding, we risk missing the opportunity to provide true digital literacy.
 - The limited skills base among teachers is one barrier to achieving this digital literacy.