

# Reading exercise: Précis assignment

## First pass

Read the document once through at a speaking pace.

## Second pass

For **each sentence**,

1. Read single sentence out loud.
2. Highlight any key vocabulary terms or quantities.
3. Read the sentence aloud again.
4. Wait 3 seconds.

For **each clause** in the sentence,

1. Read clause out loud.
2. Ask, "Does this clause **contain any logical content that differs from** any logical content **already read** in the same passage?" To answer this question, you might very well need to re-read (many times) the clause currently under study and previously read sentences.
  - a. If so, **highlight** the portion of the clause that contains the **new logical content**.
  - b. Otherwise, do not add additional highlighting to the clause. Instead, move on to analyze the next clause.

If a sentence remains difficult to understand after following the preceding steps, you might want to diagram the sentence.

## Processing

On additional sheets of paper, **copy** the highlighted logical content.

Determine whether there is any way to **shorten** the handwritten copy **without changing the logical content** (including, not only conclusions, but also the relative importance of the various conclusions and the methods of argument used to obtain them). Do not add your voice.