

FOCUS STRATEGY: Determine What's Important

How to DETERMINE WHAT'S IMPORTANT

Focus Strategy

Track your thoughts by taking notes on the following:

- 1. Find the Main Idea** Write what the selection is mainly about.
- 2. Take Note of Important Details** Write key information.
- 3. Summarize** Write the most important ideas in your own words.

- A.** Read the passage. As you read, use the strategies above to determine what's important. Then answer the questions.

Look Into the Text

When I got a hold of the picture, I went ballistic. "This is the type of propaganda that the Nazis used during the Holocaust," I yelled. When a student timidly asked me, "What's the Holocaust?" I was shocked.

I asked, "How many of you have heard of the Holocaust?" Not a single person raised his hand. Then I asked, "How many of you have been shot at?" Nearly every hand went up.

I immediately decided to throw out my meticulously planned lessons and make tolerance the core of my curriculum.

From that moment on, I would try to bring history to life by using new books, inviting guest speakers, and going on field trips. . . .

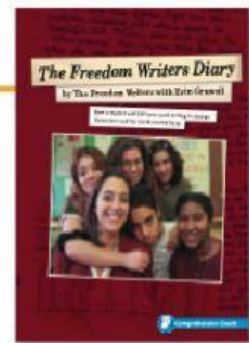
1. What is this passage mainly about?
2. What is the most important idea?

Selection Review The Freedom Writers Diary



How Do People Challenge Expectations?

Find out why people challenge expectations.



- A.** In “The Freedom Writers Diary,” you learned how people’s expectations are challenged. Reread Student Diary #41, and compare what the student expected to learn with what the student actually learned. Complete the T Chart.

T Chart

What the Student Expected	What the Student Experienced

- B.** Use the information in the chart to answer the questions.

1. How were the writer’s expectations challenged?
2. The diary writer was able to empathize with author Anne Frank and Holocaust survivor Gerda Seifer. How did this change her perception of the Holocaust? Use **perception** in your answer.
3. Why are the diaries the Freedom Writers kept and the stories they share important for people to read?