Exercise 1

Read the information. Then read the sentences below. What is the writer doing in each sentence? Choose the best options.

In the IELTS Reading test, you might need to find the part of the Reading passage where the writer is doing something (for example, giving a reason, challenging an idea or comparing something).

1. Many people wonder if it is worth spending a huge amount of money on space exploration. This is a sensible question, although we should also consider the benefits that space research has given us in terms of the technological advancements that have been made. challenging an idea/comparing things/giving a reason
2. NASA's annual budget is approximately $17.5 billion. This sounds like a huge amount of money – and it is – until you realise that Americans spend nearly twice that amount on pizza each year. challenging an idea/comparing things/giving a reason
3. Some historians believe that the USSR and the USA were in a 'race' to develop rocket systems, weapons and satellite technology. This is why conquering space, putting humans in orbit and on the moon, became an important goal in the latter half of the 20th century. challenging an idea/comparing things/giving a reason

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