

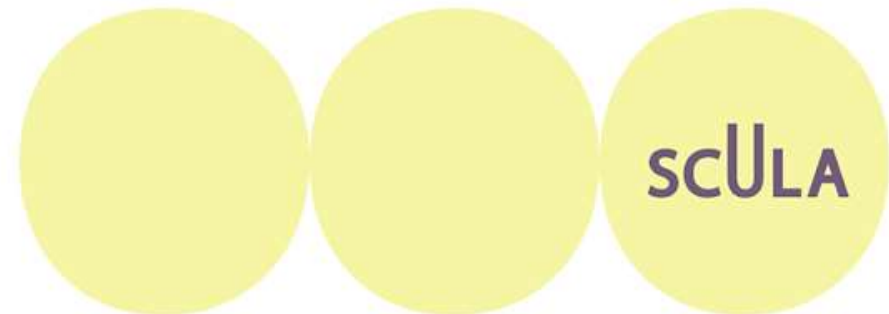
SAT READING & WRITING SECTION

Command of Evidence : Textual



WALKTHROUGH OF THE SESSION

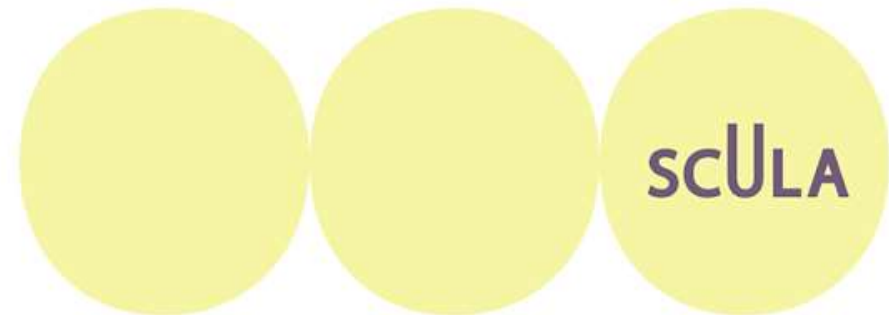
- What are “textual evidence ”questions?
- How should we think about textual evidence questions?
- How to approach textual evidence questions?
- Tips & useful strategies



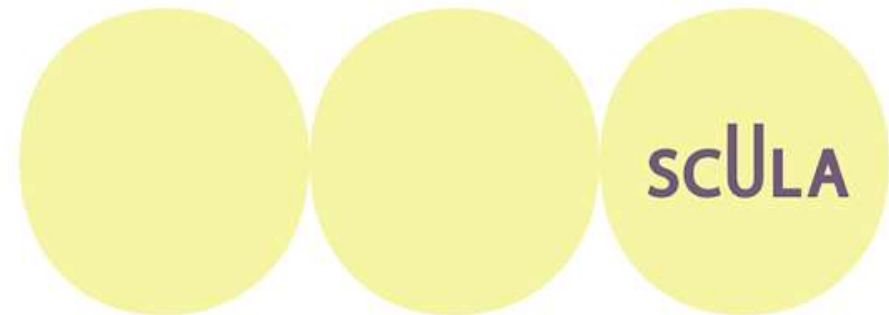
What are “Textual Evidence ”Questions?

On the Reading and Writing section of your SAT, some questions will introduce a claim about an unfamiliar subject. The question will then ask you to identify the piece of evidence that most strongly supports that claim .

Textual evidence questions will look like this:

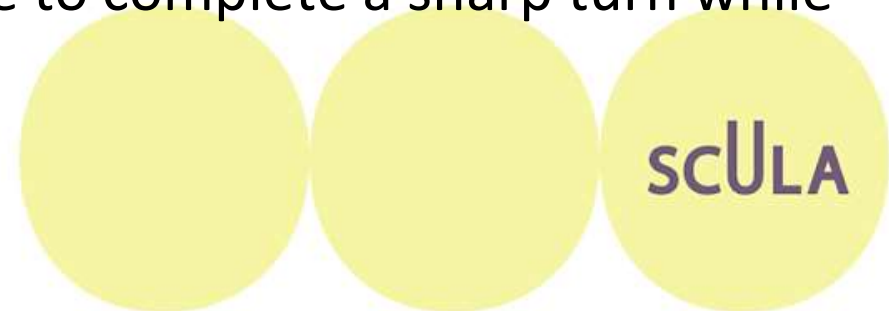


Jan Gimsa, Robert Sleight, and Ulrike Gimsa have hypothesized that the sail-like structure running down the back of the dinosaur *Spinosaurus aegyptiacus* improved the animal's success in underwater pursuits of prey species capable of making quick, evasive movements. To evaluate their hypothesis, a second team of researchers constructed two battery-powered mechanical models of *S. aegyptiacus*, one with a sail and one without, and subjected the models to a series of identical tests in a water-filled tank.



Which finding from the model tests, if true, would most strongly support Gimsa and colleagues' hypothesis?

- A. The model with a sail took significantly longer to travel a specified distance while submerged than the model without a sail did.
- B. The model with a sail displaced significantly more water while submerged than the model without a sail did.
- C. The model with a sail had significantly less battery power remaining after completing the tests than the model without a sail did.
- D. The model with a sail took significantly less time to complete a sharp turn while submerged than the model without a sail did.



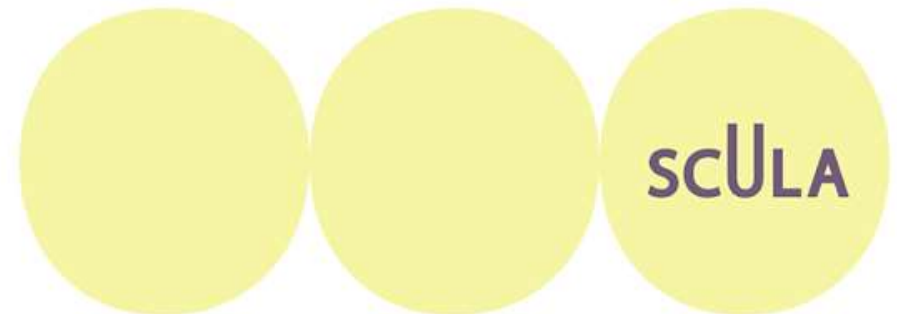
How Should we Think About “Textual Evidence “Questions?”

Scientific evidence	Literary evidence
<p>In these textual evidence questions, a hypothesis will be presented about a subject in science or social science, usually in the context of new research or experimentation. We won't need to rely on any previous science knowledge: everything we need will be contained in the short passage. Our task is to interpret the researchers' hypothesis, identify the research outcome that would support that hypothesis, and then select the choice that offers that outcome. This task should remind you of your science classes, in which you've likely needed to confirm or refute a hypothesis based on the outcomes of an experiment.</p>	<p>In these textual evidence questions, the passage will make an argument concerning a particular literary work, like a poem or novel. The choices will then offer a set of quotations from that literary work. We don't need any previous knowledge of the literary work under discussion. What we will need is the ability to evaluate whether the content of each quotation serves as direct evidence for the argument identified in the question. This task should remind you of your English classes, in which you've likely needed to pull quotations from a text to support your arguments in an analytical essay.</p>

How to Approach Textual Evidence Questions?

Step1 : *Identify the argument*

Every textual evidence question, whether scientific or literary, will introduce a central argument for the question. It might be a research hypothesis, or it might be an interpretation of a literary text, but either way it will be clearly stated. Your first job is to identify that argument and draw it out from the text. For instance, in the example question at the start of this article, you can identify the following hypothesis: *gninnur erutcurts ekil-lias eht" suruasonipS ruasonid eht fo kcab eht nwod 'lamina eht devorpmi sucaitpygeas success in underwater pursuits of prey species capable of making quick, evasive movements."*



How to Approach Textual Evidence Questions?

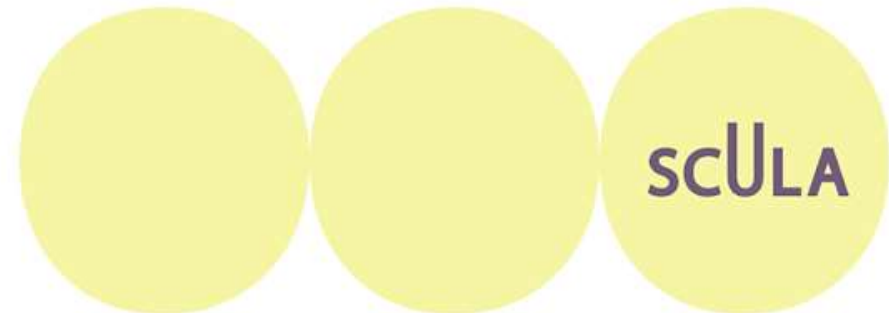
Step 2: *Create a test phrase*



Once you've identified the argument you want to support, you should rephrase that argument in the simplest terms possible. For example, consider that hypothesis about Spinosaurus aegyptiacus. The claim is that a sail would help the dinosaur hunt quick prey while underwater. You could simplify that as follows:

Sail on back = quicker underwater movement

The best choice will make this same argument.



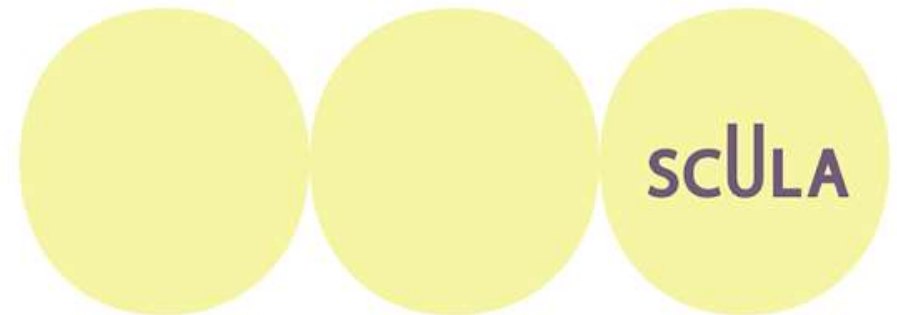
How to Approach Textual Evidence Questions?

Step 3: *Test the choices*



Read each choice while keeping your test phrase in mind. Does the choice say something different than the test phrase? If so, eliminate that choice.

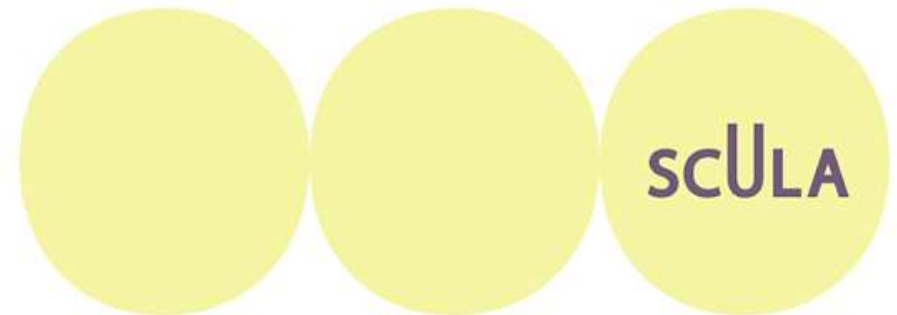
Once you find a choice that makes the same argument as your test phrase, you've found the answer. You can select that choice with confidence.



Top Tips!

Stay Specific:

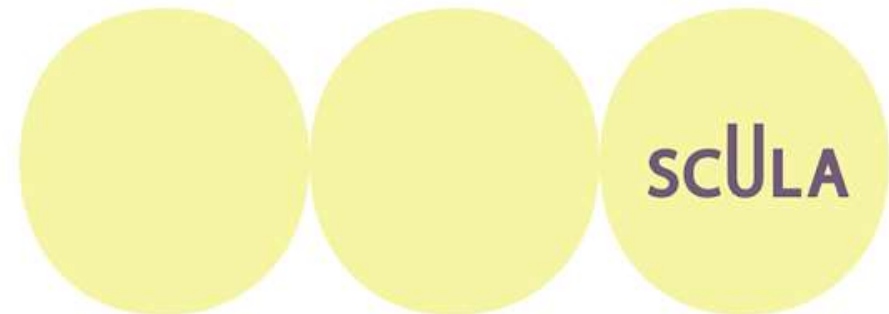
Don't stray beyond the focus of the passage. Eliminate choices that broaden or blur the argument you're meant to be supporting. And look out for small twists and turns that make a choice seems relevant when it actually changes the focus of the argument.



Top Tips!

Be Strict:

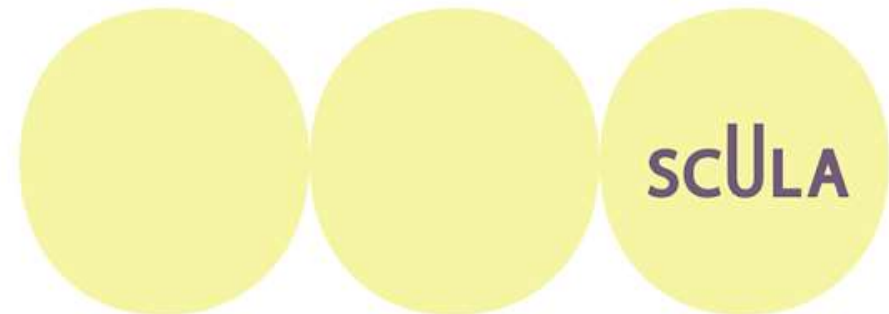
Remember, we're looking for the strongest and most direct evidence. If a choice "almost " or "kind of " feels like evidence, you can likely eliminate it. If you need to connect too many dots to match the argument, then it's probably not strong evidence.



Practice Time!



"Mr. Cornelius Johnson, Office-Seeker" is a 1900 short story by Paul Laurence Dunbar. In the story, the narrator describes Mr. Cornelius Johnson's appearance as conveying his exaggerated sense of his importance_____ :



Which quotation from "Mr. Cornelius Johnson, Office-Seeker "most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A. "He carried himself always as if he were passing under his own triumphal arch".
- A. "The grey Prince Albert was scrupulously buttoned about his form, and a shiny top hat replaced the felt of the afternoon".
- A. "Mr. Cornelius Johnson always spoke in a large and important tone".
- A. "It was a beautiful day in balmy May and the sun shone pleasantly on Mr. Cornelius Johnson's very spruce Prince Albert suit of grey as he alighted from the train in Washington".

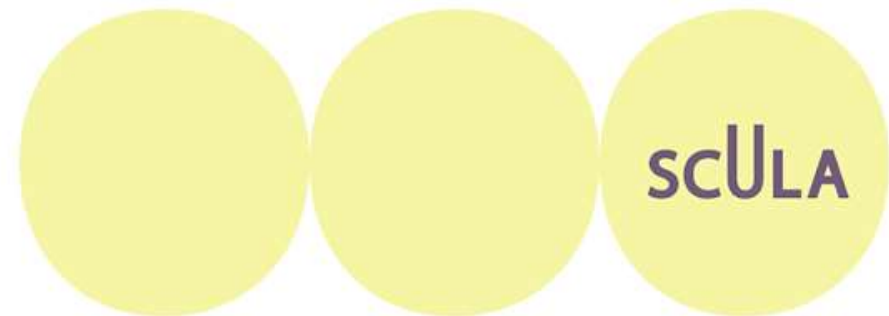
First we need to focus in on the claim our evidence needs to support:

"the narrator describes Mr. Cornelius Johnson's appearance as conveying his exaggerated sense of his importance"

We can simplify this claim to make our lives a bit easier:
exaggerated self-importance

Let's test this phrase against each of the choices:

Choice B shows that Cornelius Johnson is tidy and well-dressed, but it doesn't suggest that he is arrogant, or that he exaggerates his self-importance. We can eliminate this choice. Choice D focuses more on the setting than on Cornelius. We can eliminate this choice.



Now choices A and C are a bit trickier.

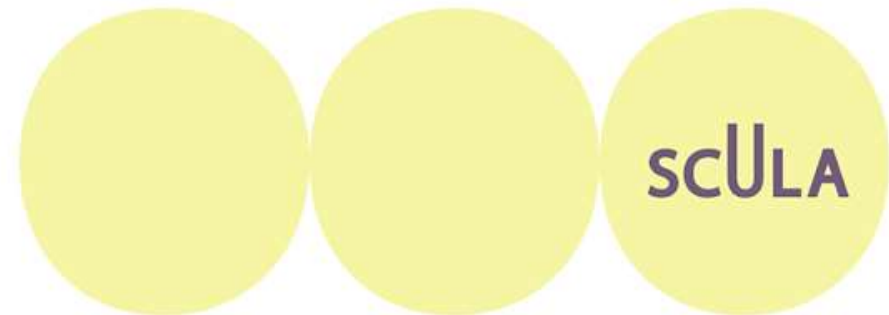
C even includes the word "important". But remember to be strict: we don't want a choice that simply says Cornelius acted important, we need evidence of exaggerated self-importance.

Choice C is a pretty literal description of Cornelius, telling us what his voice sounds like. Also, the prompt focuses on Cornelius' appearance-what he looks like, not what he sounds like .

Choice A introduces a comical and hyperbolic description of Cornelius walking around like a big shot.

Choice A is definitely more "exaggerated."

Choice A is the answer.



THANK YOU!

DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?

