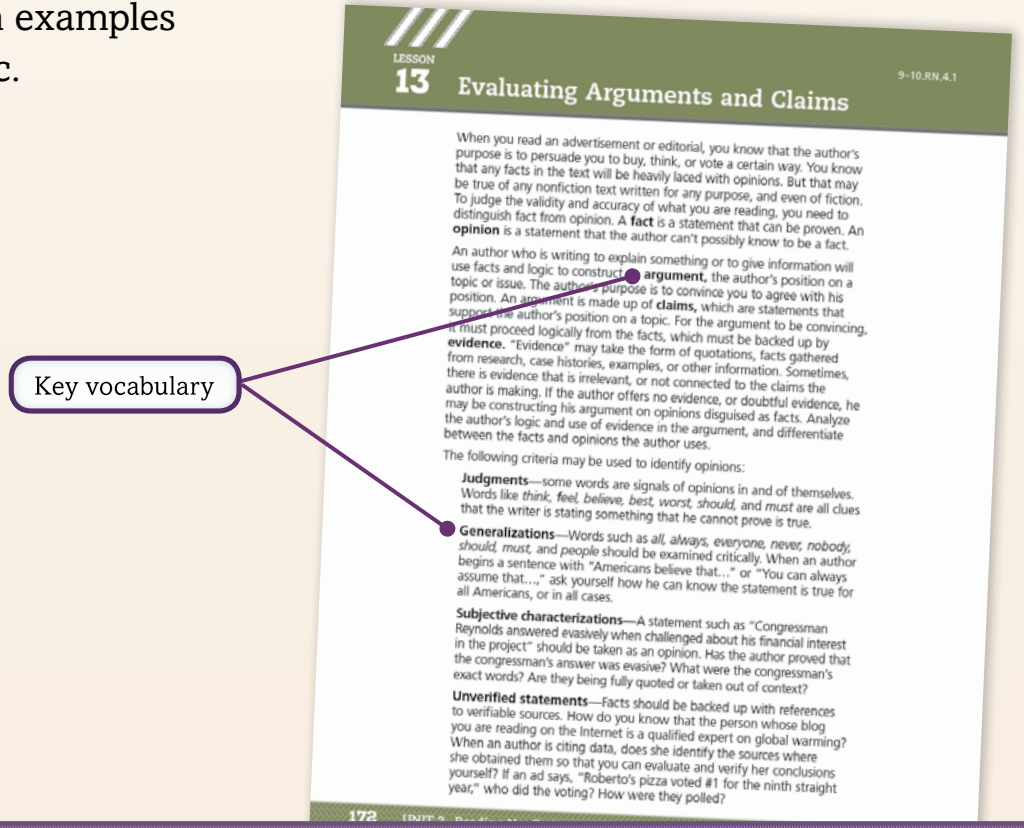
Lesson Format

Part #1: Instruction

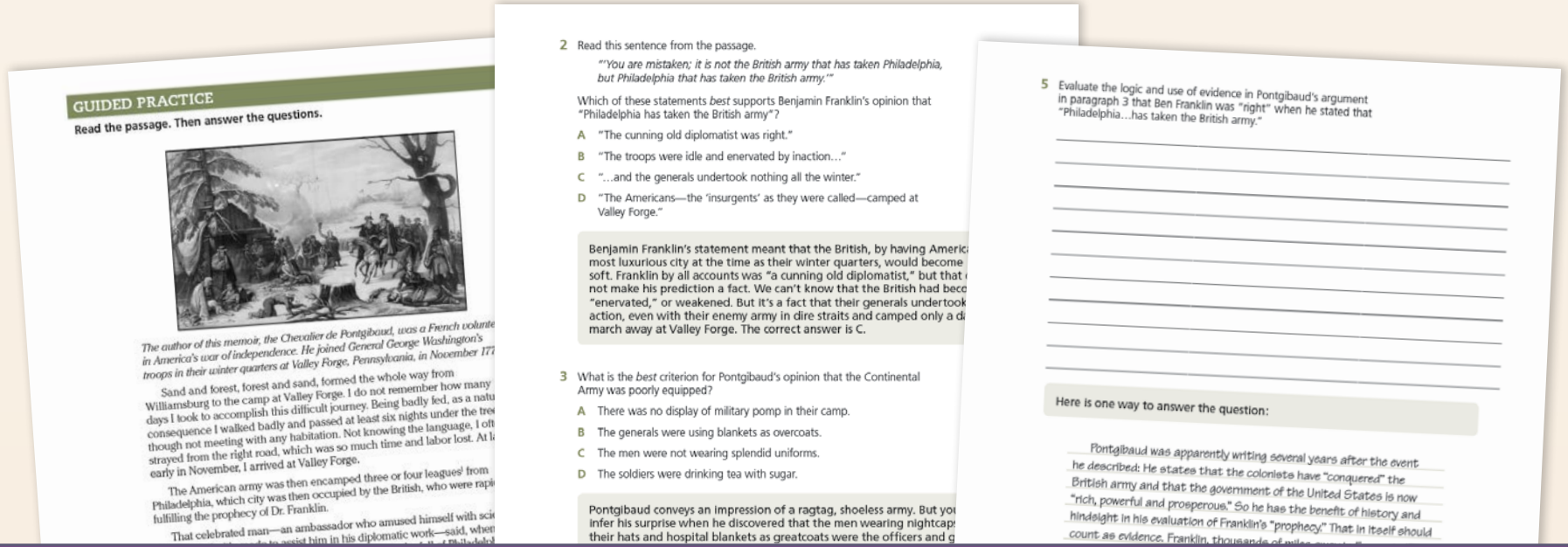
Each lesson begins with a brief explanation of the skill or content being taught with examples and clues for understanding the topic.



Lesson Format

Part #2: Guided Practice

Each reading passage is followed by a series of questions to test comprehension. Depending on question type, the correct answer is given with an explanation of why it is correct or a model writing sample is provided. This immediate feedback helps students learn how to examine answer choices and what constitutes a good writing response.



GUIDED PRACTICE

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

The author of this memoir, the Chevalier de Pontgibaud, was a French volunte in America's war of independence. He joined General George Washington's troops in their winter quarters at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, in November 177

Sand and forest, forest and sand, formed the whole way from Williamsburg to the camp at Valley Forge. I do not remember how many days I took to accomplish this difficult journey. Being badly led, as a natu consequence I walked badly and passed at least six nights under the tre though not meeting with any habitation. Not knowing the language, I oft strayed from the right road, which was so much time and labor lost. At l early in November, I arrived at Valley Forge.

The American army was then encamped three or four leagues[1] from Philadelphia, which city was then occupied by the British, who were rapi fulfilling the prophecy of Dr. Franklin.

That celebrated man—an ambassador who amused himself with sci

2 Read this sentence from the passage.

"'You are mistaken; it is not the British army that has taken Philadelphia, but Philadelphia that has taken the British army.'"

Which of these statements *best* supports Benjamin Franklin's opinion that "Philadelphia has taken the British army"?

A "The cunning old diplomatist was right."
B "The troops were idle and enervated by inaction…"
C "…and the generals undertook nothing all the winter."
D "The Americans—the 'insurgents' as they were called—camped at Valley Forge."

Benjamin Franklin's statement meant that the British, by having Americ most luxurious city at the time as their winter quarters, would become soft. Franklin by all accounts was "a cunning old diplomatist," but that not make his prediction a fact. We can't know that the British had beco "enervated," or weakened. But it's a fact that their generals undertook action, even with their enemy army in dire straits and camped only a di march away at Valley Forge. The correct answer is C.

3 What is the *best* criterion for Pontgibaud's opinion that the Continental Army was poorly equipped?

A There was no display of military pomp in their camp.
B The generals were using blankets as overcoats.
C The men were not wearing splendid uniforms.
D The soldiers were drinking tea with sugar.

Pontgibaud conveys an impression of a ragtag, shoeless army. But yo infer his surprise when he discovered that the men wearing nightcaps their hats and hospital blankets as greatcoats were the officers and g

5 Evaluate the logic and use of evidence in Pontgibaud's argument in paragraph 3 that Ben Franklin was "right" when he stated that "Philadelphia…has taken the British army."

Here is one way to answer the question:

Pontgibaud was apparently writing several years after the event he described. He states that the colonists have "conquered" the British army and that the government of the United States is now "rich, powerful and prosperous." So he has the benefit of history and hindsight in his evaluation of Franklin's "prophecy." That in itself should count as evidence. Franklin, thousands of

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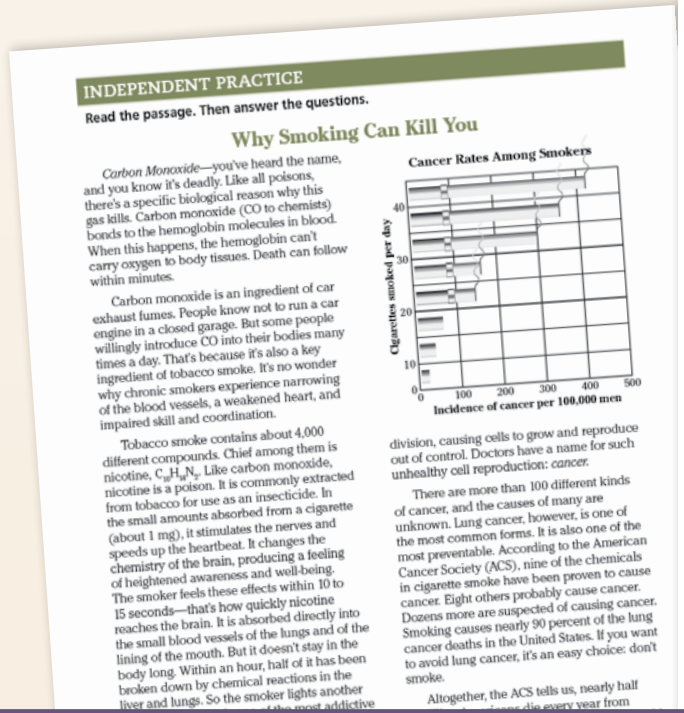
Part #3: Independent Practice

Students are ready to apply their reading strategies without any help or hints.
A reading passage is followed by a series of questions.



INDEPENDENT PRACTICE

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

Why Smoking Can Kill You

Carbon Monoxide—you've heard the name, and you know it's deadly. Like all poisons, there's a specific biological reason why this gas kills. Carbon monoxide (CO to chemists) bonds to the hemoglobin molecules in blood. When this happens, the hemoglobin can't carry oxygen to body tissues. Death can follow within minutes.

Carbon monoxide is an ingredient of car exhaust fumes. People know not to run a car engine in a closed garage. But some people willingly introduce CO into their bodies many times a day. That's because it's also a key ingredient of tobacco smoke. It's no wonder why chronic smokers experience narrowing of the blood vessels, a weakened heart, and impaired skill and coordination.

Tobacco smoke contains about 4,000 different compounds. Chief among them is nicotine, $C_{10}H_{14}N_2$. Like carbon monoxide, nicotine is a poison. It is commonly extracted from tobacco for use as an insecticide. In the small amounts absorbed from a cigarette (about 1 mg), it stimulates the nerves and speeds up the heartbeat. It changes the chemistry of the brain, producing a feeling of heightened awareness and well-being. The smoker feels these effects within 10 to 15 seconds—that's how quickly nicotine reaches the brain. It is absorbed directly into the small blood vessels of the lungs and of the lining of the mouth. But it doesn't stay in the body long. Within an hour, half of it has been broken down by chemical reactions in the liver and lungs. So the smoker lights another

Cancer Rates Among Smokers

division, causing cells to grow and reproduce out of control. Doctors have a name for such unhealthy cell reproduction: *cancer.*

There are more than 100 different kinds of cancer, and the causes of many are unknown. Lung cancer, however, is one of the most common forms. It is also one of the most preventable. According to the American Cancer Society (ACS), nine of the chemicals in cigarette smoke have been proven to cause cancer. Eight others probably cause cancer. Dozens more are suspected of causing cancer. Smoking causes nearly 90 percent of the lung cancer deaths in the United States. If you want to avoid lung cancer, it's an easy choice: don't smoke.

Altogether, the ACS tells us, nearly half

1 Which of these sentences from paragraph 1 states an opinion?

A "*Carbon monoxide*—you've heard the name, and you know it's deadly."

B "Like all poisons, there's a specific biological reason why this gas kills."

C "Carbon monoxide (CO to chemists) bonds to the hemoglobin molecules in blood."

D "When this happens, the hemoglobin can't carry oxygen to body tissues."

2 Which of these claims is supported by information in the passage?

A Nicotine is a leading cause of lung cancer.

B Most cases of lung cancer can be prevented by not smoking.

C The carbon monoxide in cigarette smoke will eventually kill a smoker.

D Narrowing of the blood vessels and a weakened heart are usually caused by smoking.

3 The information the author presents as a fact in paragraphs 3 and 5 has *most likely* been verified by

A warning labels on cigarette packages.

B summary reports of scientific experiments.

C questionnaires submitted by hospital patients.

D court testimony from lawsuits against tobacco companies.

4 Which of the following points is supported by the graph?

A Smoking causes nearly 90 percent of the lung cancer deaths in the United States.

B Nearly half a million Americans die every year from smoking-related illnesses.

C Ninety-six percent of all lung cancer cases occur among cigarette smokers.

D The more cigarettes a person smokes, the more likely he is to get cancer.

5 Which of the following statements from the passage is an opinion?

A "There are more than 100 different kinds of cancer, and the causes of many are unknown."

B "…nine of the chemicals in cigarette smoke have been proven to cause cancer."

C "Smoking causes nearly 90 percent of the lung cancer deaths in the United States."

D "If you want to avoid lung cancer, it's an easy choice: don't smoke."

6 Evaluate the argument the author makes in his concluding paragraph. Explain why it is or is not a logical argument.

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