Reading Comprehension Tips for the TASC Exam

- **Read all directions** carefully.
- If you are a **fast reader**, look at the questions (at least the first question) before reading the passage. **Slower readers** should begin by reading the passage.
- **Read through the entire passage carefully** at least once.
- **Look back at the passage** to find the sentences that answer questions - don’t rely on memory.
- Make sure you understand exactly what each question is asking. STOP and take a moment to **think about what you will need to look for in the reading passage**.
- **Para los alumnos latinos** – Cuando se encuentre una palabra desconocida en inglés, necesita preguntar a usted mismo si esta palabra es semejante a una palabra en español. Hay que usar su propio idioma porque existen muchas palabras en los dos idiomas que son casi iguales.
- **Always read all of the possible answers** before answering a question.
  o **Eliminate** the ones that do not seem correct.
  o Never choose an answer that is not supported by something in the selection.
  o Never choose an answer that contains wrong information.
  o Make sure the answer you choose answers the question asked.
  o **Make an educated guess** based upon your knowledge and experience.
- The answer to a question is often stated in words that are a little different from the exact words used in the reading passage.
- To define a word, **scan the passage** to find the word. Reading the sentence before, the sentence containing the word, and the sentence following the word will usually give you enough information (context clues) to answer the question correctly.
- Look for key words such as **first, then, next, finally, and after** when **sequencing events**. For time and sequence questions, don’t always expect to find all of the events given to you in correct order in the passage.
- The **main idea** of a passage is most often at the very beginning and it may be stated again at the very end.
- Don’t confuse a supporting detail with the main idea. A supporting detail just explains or gives more information about the topic.
- If you are asked about **cause and effect** (why something has happened and what has happened), look for key words such as since, because, as a result of, and therefore.
- **Answer all the questions. You are not penalized for wrong answers.**

Sources:

"Test taking Strategies: How to take a multiple choice test in math and English" (schoolwires.henry.k12.ga.us).