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## Learning from texts : extending and revising knowledge

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A P P E N D I X II

**A**

Example Texts of Experiment 2

## Non-Refutation Text

### Introduction (7 sentences, 100 words)

The Parker family was vacationing at their favorite spot at a scenic New England lake. Every summer they would rent the same cabin right on the water. The two brothers, Jack and Ryan enjoyed water skiing. It was an exceptionally hot day so the boys decided to gear up for some water skiing. Jack had trouble adjusting his life jacket because his hands were dripping with sweat. Frustrated, he asked his brother why it was always so hot in the summer and always so cold in the winter. Mrs. Parker, who was reading a science textbook, overheard her boys talking.

### Non-Refutation (2 sentences, 33 words)

She said this was just the sort of thing that the boys should look up in a textbook. The sons agreed that they would look it up after they had finished water skiing.

### Non-Explanation (6 sentences, 100 words)

Mrs. Parker was always encouraging her boys to find out the answers to questions they had by reading textbooks. She thought this was a good way to teach them. If her sons had to find the answers themselves, they would remember them better. Sometimes Jack and Ryan found reading textbooks annoying. They would ask their mom what a certain word meant and rather than just tell them, they had to stop what they were doing and go find the dictionary. They knew there was no point in asking her because their mom was not going to give them the answer.

### Filler (4 sentences, 60 words)

After patiently listening to their mom talk about the seasons, the boys went back to getting ready for water skiing. The boys agreed that they would take turns on the water skis. It was still too hot, so they decided to head home. They knew their mom would quiz them, so they reread the textbook to confirm that it is

### Target Sentence with Correct Outcome (37-43 characters)

the tilt of the Earth causes the seasons.

### Spillover (5-8 words)

The boys were very happy with their answer.

### Closing (6 sentences, 90 words)

Jack and Ryan ran to the kitchen to make a snack. Although they had not been on the lake for long, the hot sun made them very hungry. After their snack the

two boys decided to play video games. Even though Jack and Ryan enjoyed playing video games they discussed how much they would rather be outside water skiing. Finally the sun went down and the temperature cooled off. The boys excitedly checked the weather channel and hoped for a cooler day so that they could enjoy more water skiing.

### Comprehension question (immediately after reading)

Were Jack and Ryan going water skiing? (yes)

### Transfer Text

-See Appendix I-

## Refutation Text

### Introduction (7 sentences, 100 words)

Kate was out for her nightly run. Halfway through the run, she stopped at a corner to rest and stretch. Kate looked up at the clear night sky while she took a sip from her water bottle. She saw a meteor falling beyond the trees and she watched until it hit the ground. She quickly ran about 400 yards to the site where the meteor landed. When she arrived there were already several people there. She noticed that her neighbor Jerry, an astronomy professor at the local university, had also come down the street to see what was going on.

### Refutation (2 sentences, 33 words)

Kate warned everyone not to touch the meteor because it would be hot and they could get burned. Jerry, the professor, said that they shouldn't worry because it actually would not be hot.

### Explanation (6 sentences, 100 words)

The professor explained that the high speed of the meteor when it enters the atmosphere causes it to melt or vaporize its outermost layer. The hot molten layer quickly blows off. The inside of the meteor does not have time to heat up again before passing through the atmosphere. This is all because meteors are poor conductors of heat. Jerry told the crowd that many meteors that make it to Earth are actually found covered in frost, and that these are known as meteorites. Despite this information, they all decided it was still a good idea not to touch it.

### Filler (4 sentences, 60 words)

Kate continued to stare at the meteor. She had never seen anything like this in

person before, and figured that would be true of many people here. What if a television crew came to interview witnesses? She could be on TV! She had to come across as smart if she was interviewed. She listened carefully as Jerry assured everyone that

**Target Sentence with Correct Outcome (37-43 characters)**

meteors landing on Earth are always cold.

**Spillover (5-8 words)**

Police cars were now arriving at the scene.

**Closing (6 sentences, 90 words)**

In situations like these they had to make sure that no one was approaching the meteor. They had to make sure that researchers would get the opportunity to investigate the area. People were not allowed to take pieces of the meteor back home. If the meteor was special, it would be transferred to a museum to add to their collection. The police told the crowd they had to go home because they needed to block off the area. Kate decided to sprint home to tell her family about the news.

**Comprehension question (immediately after reading)**

Was Kate out for a walk? (no)

**Transfer problem test questions (after reading all 18 texts)**

**Non-refutation text**

Consider a planet that has extreme seasons. The difference in temperature between the summer and the winter is large. Explain what could be the cause of this pattern of extreme seasons and how would this pattern influence temperatures in the summer and in the winter.

**Refutation text**

Consider a meteor that landed on planet Z. Explain if whether this meteor is hot or cold, what influenced the temperature of the meteor, and how.