Study Guide

Assumptions
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**Assumptions - A**An assumption takes information for granted. It draws a conclusion without all of the necessary evidence. Identifying assumptions requires critical and analytical reading skills.

The student must be able to determine which statements can be proved and which statements cannot be proved.

For example, "Michael is tall, so he must like to play basketball." The person speaking is assuming that because Michael is tall he must enjoy basketball (which is often played by tall athletes). The statement is not supported by fact, so it is an assumption.

Another example of an assumption is "My sister sneezed, so she must have a cold." The statement is not based on fact. It is an assumption. There is no proof that she has a cold; there are many other reasons why she may have sneezed.

Help the student recognize assumptions by making a list of statements. Make some of the statements true, and some of the statements assumptions. Here are some examples:

 1. Jane looks sad. She must be mad at her sister.
 2. The baseball player hit his tenth home run of the season.
 3. Filipe must have just heard a joke. He's smiling.

Only the second example is a fact that can be proven. In the first example, there could be many other reasons why Jane looks sad. In the third example, there could be other reasons why Filipe is smiling.