

7th-Grade ELA
Lesson: April 7th, 2020

Learning Target(s)

I can:

- interpret visual elements of text.
- write responses using complete sentences with standard spelling, punctuation, and grammar

Essential Question:

- **How do text features make informational text more interesting and useful?**

Warm Up:

Video games are 'normalizing communication with strangers.'

Video games, while about 83 percent of girls do, according to the Pew Research Center.

There are many ways for gamers to meet online. They can use built-in chat features on consoles like Xbox and services like Steam, or connect on sites like Discord and Twitch. The games have become extremely social, and developing relationships with strangers on them is very common.

"It's just like making it easier for predators to get out kids faster and more efficiently," says Brent Haines, who runs Sassy Cyber Kids, a nonprofit focused on online safety. He adds that it makes children vulnerable by "normalizing communication with strangers."

The criminals often pose as children, confiding in their victims with fake stories of hardship or self-hatred to build up trust. Their goal, typically, is to lure young people into sharing sexually explicit photos and videos of themselves—which they can use to blackmail for more images, such as it increasingly graphs or videos.

How to Protect Yourself

Follow these tips from the F.B.I. to stay safe from cyber predators.

1. **Be selective about what you share online.** If your social media accounts are open to everyone, a predator may be able to figure out a lot of information about you.
2. **Be wary of anyone you encounter for the first time online.** Avoid or ignore messages from strangers.
3. **Be aware that people can pretend to be anything or anyone online.** Voices and photos are not proof that a person is who they claim to be. Images can be altered or stolen.
4. **Be suspicious** if you meet someone on one game or app and they ask you to start talking to them on a different platform.
5. **Be in the know.** Any contact you create online—whether it's a text message, photo or video—can be made public. And once you send something, you don't have any control over where it goes next.
6. **Be willing to ask for help.** If you are getting messages or requests online that don't seem right, block the sender, report the behavior to the site administrator, or go to a trusted adult. If you have been victimized online, call someone.

If you believe you're a victim of extortion or know someone who is, call 1-800-CALL-PSY.



Homecoming

By Bailey White

I just got back from my vacation. I went to Washington, New Hampshire, for two weeks. Mama was glad to have me back. I had asked my sister, Louise, and my uncles Jimbuddy and Sonny to look in on her now and then while I was gone, and they had been pestering her with their attentions. My sister had dragged her to the movies to see Madonna. "You just sit here and stagnate all day long," my sister had told her. "You need to get out more, see what's going on in the world."

So Mama saw Madonna. It worried her. "What if you had turned out like that?" she said to me. And Jimbuddy spent every afternoon with her. He ate two gallons of chocolate ice cream while I was gone, Mama told me. All in all, she prefers my method of caretaking—benign abuse and neglect.

"By the way," she said as I unpacked my bags, "a big white oak snake moved into your room while you were gone. I started to put him out," she said, "but he gave me that look."

"That cool look," I said.

"That's right," she said.

We have had a little problem with mice in the house, and Mama prefers snakes to cats as mousers. Snakes are silent, and they don't trip you up rubbing against your legs, and they don't shed hair.

The snake is living in our Christmas decorations on the fireplace mantel. We put up balsam boughs from Maine at Christmastime, and we don't take them down until the following November because it's only when the balsam gets really dry, about July, that it has its sweetest smell.

I don't have an unnatural fear of snakes, as some people do, but I am not sure I like the idea of having one living in the same room with me. "What if he crawls up the bedpost in the dark of night and creeps between the sheets with me?" I asked Mama.

"These hot summer nights," she says reassuringly, "you'll just be grateful for the coolness of him."

From *Mama Makes Up Her Mind* (Da Capo Press, 2009)

On notebook paper, complete a quick write that addresses the following questions:

- 1) Compare the 2 pages. What similarities do you notice? What differences do you notice? You don't need to try to read the pages. Look at them overall.
- 2) How do magazines and websites grab your attention? Write for 2-3 Minutes.

Learn:

- In order to make meaning, readers examine and use visual elements of a text.
- Visual elements/text features include: photos, artwork, cartoons, maps, graphs, charts, statistics, bolded words, pull quotes, subheadings, and titles and more!

Visual elements/text features:

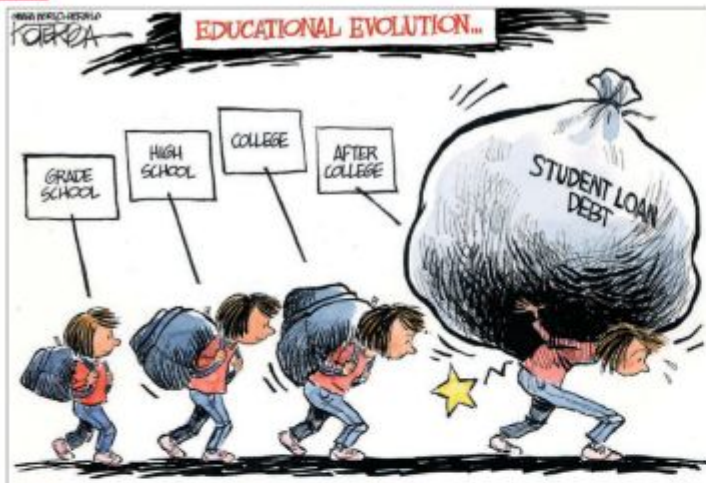


- act as a map to guide the reader through the page.
- help the reader know what is most important.
- organize ideas.

The magazine is divided into different sections.



ECONOMICS



Drowning in DEBT

Today's college students are graduating with more student loan debt than any generation before. Can anything be done about it? by JOE RUBIN

When she was a senior at High Point University in North Carolina, Britany Genthomme dreamed of renting an apartment and living on her own after graduation in 2017. Instead, she had difficulty landing a job in her chosen field, communications, and had to move back into her parents' home in Milford, New Hampshire, for three years

so she could try to make a dent in the \$65,000 she borrowed in student loans. Genthomme, now 24, says living with her parents made her feel "like my life was on hold. I didn't feel like an adult." She's far from the only college graduate saddled with debt. About two-thirds of seniors at four-year colleges are carrying student loans. In 2017, the average was more than \$29,000, according to the Institute for College

Access and Success, a nonprofit group advocating affordable higher education. That's up from \$13,000 in 1996, when adjusting for inflation.

"This generation of students is the most debt burdened ever, and it's a huge problem for them," says Melissa Baradaran, a law professor at the University of California, Irvine, who specializes in banking law. "I do think you're going to have a generation of students whose main concern, instead of finding a partner they love and coming up with a career, they have this huge part of their psychological and emotional toll being about the servicing of these debts."

The Soaring Price of an Education
Americans spend more on college than almost anyone else in the world, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

But college in the U.S. didn't always cost so much. Thirty years ago, average tuition and fees for a public university

were less than \$5,000 per year in today's dollars. Now the average is more than \$10,000. The cost of attending a private college has also doubled in that time, from about \$18,000 a year to more than \$36,000 today (see graph, below).

At the same time that college tuition has soared, wages in the U.S. have barely risen, after accounting for inflation. That has made it harder for parents to shoulder the tuition by themselves, and students are increasingly turning to loans.

Why has college gotten so expensive? Economists point to the increasing costs of technology, dorms, and other facilities, as well as to the rising salaries of professors and administrators. For many public universities, they've had to raise tuition because states have cut funding—down, on average, by about 16 percent from a decade ago.

School officials point out that they offer financial aid, and a large proportion of students don't actually pay full price for college. But for many students, the aid still isn't enough, and they have to take out loans to supplement it.

After graduation, it can take them years to pay off their debt. A 2017 study of Wisconsin universities found that it takes about 20 years on average for graduates to pay off a bachelor's degree.

Entry-level jobs often don't pay enough for recent graduates to make much of a dent in their loan payments. After Roman Long, 25, graduated from Framingham State University in Massachusetts in 2014 with about \$50,000 in student loan debt, he had to work 80 hours a week at three jobs and move back in with his mom in Falmouth, Massachusetts.

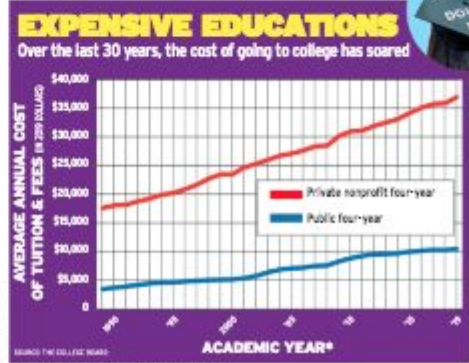
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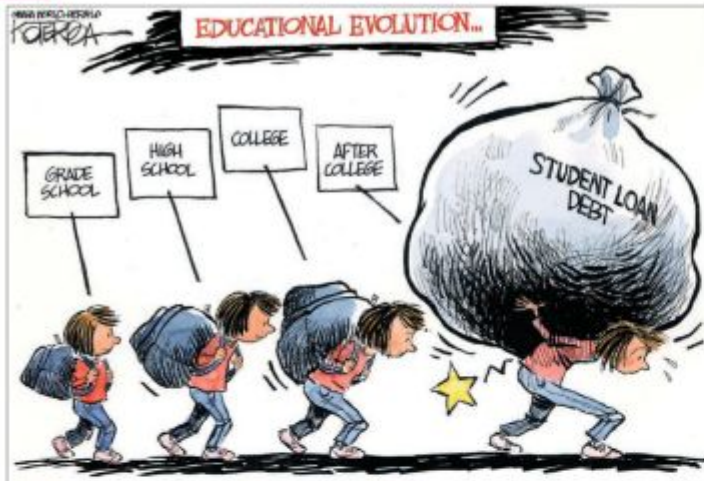
Tuition-Free College?

The soaring price of college has become a big issue on the campaign trail, with the Democratic candidates for president sparring over the best way to handle it. Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts,

and Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey have proposed student loan forgiveness programs for all students who serve in the military. Sen. Kamala Harris has suggested a community college option for low-income students. Sen. Bernie Sanders has argued that the federal government should offer the same benefits to students who serve in the military. Sen. Elizabeth Warren has argued that the federal government should offer the same benefits to students who serve in the military.

While the federal government has a long history of offering tuition-free college to certain groups of students, such as those who serve in the military, the federal government has not offered tuition-free college to all students. Sen. Elizabeth Warren has proposed a plan to offer tuition-free college to all students who serve in the military.





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\$1.6 Trillion
TOTAL U.S. student loan debt owed by 44.7 million Americans

69%
PERCENTAGE of college students in the class of 2018 who took out loans

SOURCE: THE COLLEGE BOARD
FIGURE: LOAN HERO

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EXPENSIVE EDUCATIONS

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The title and cartoon grab the reader's attention.



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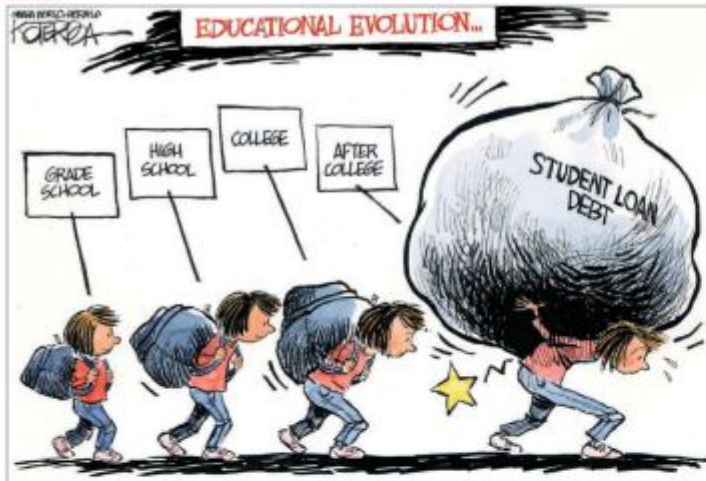
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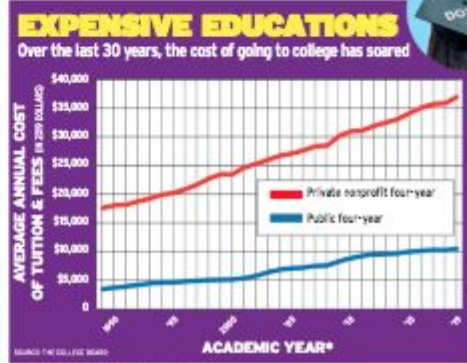
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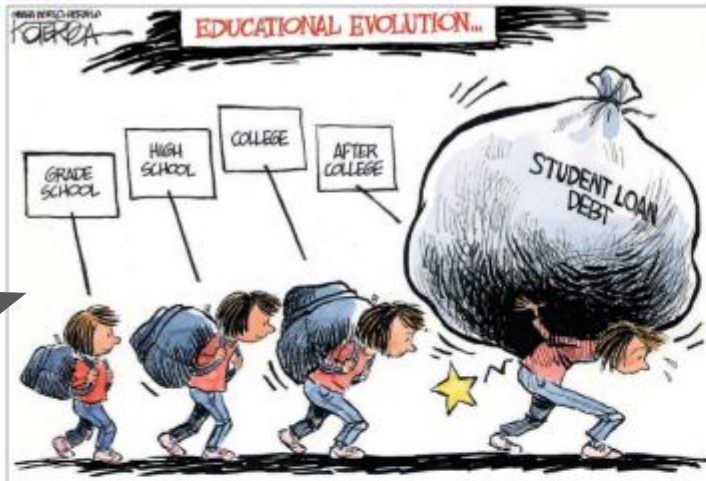
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The cartoon represents the main idea in a visual way.



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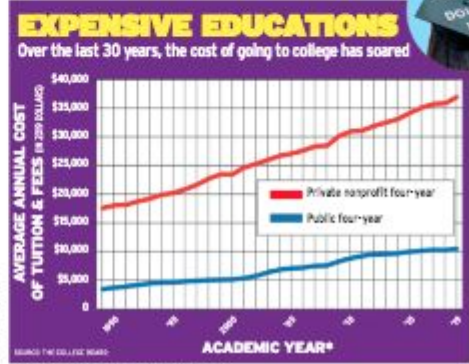
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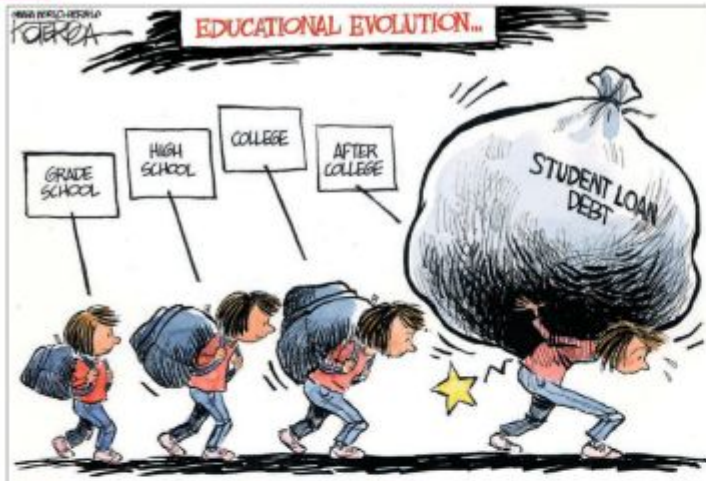
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While the federal government has offered to forgive up to \$10,000 in student loan debt for graduates of public colleges, Sen. Warren has argued that the federal government should offer the same benefits to students who attend public colleges.



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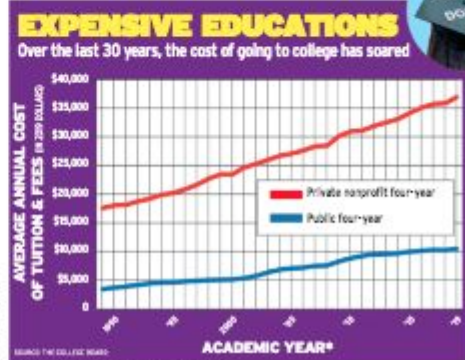
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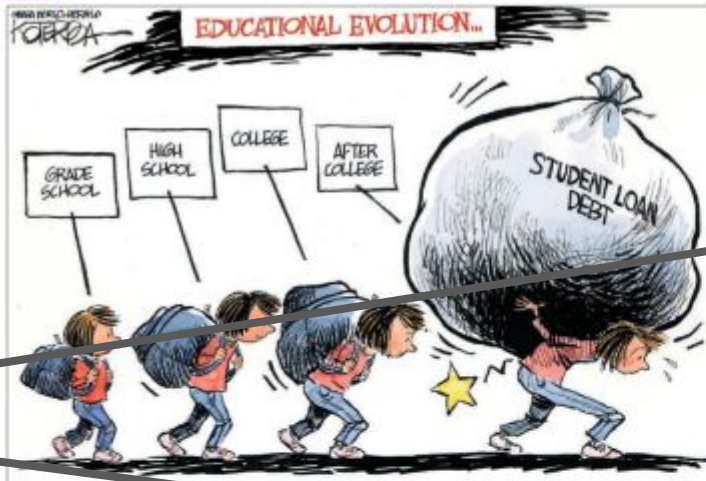
While it's not clear if any of these proposals will pass, they do show that college debt is a major concern for voters. "My loan payments are a burden on my budget," says a 2017 survey of college students. "I don't have enough money to cover my expenses."



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The subtitle expands on the title and gives more detail.



Important words are highlighted.

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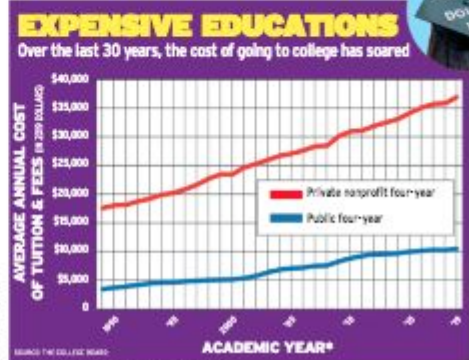
Tuition-Free College?

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The Trump administration's other policy proposals include student loan forgiveness for those who serve in the military, and a cap on tuition.

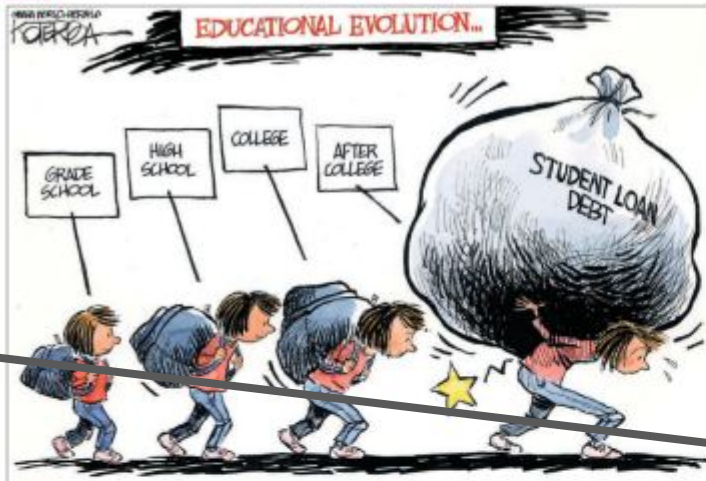
While it's unclear how much of a dent these proposals would make in the \$1.6 trillion of student loan debt, they offer the prospect of a more equitable higher education system. "My loan is a burden on my thinking about the future," says Gentilhomme. "Accidentally, however, it's helped me think about college debt with a different perspective." She says she's now looking at graduate school as a way to pay off her debt.



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The article and ideas are separated into sections by the subheadings.



Drowning in DEBT

Today's college students are graduating with more student loan debt than any generation before. Can anything be done about it? BY JOE RUBIN

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so she could try to make a dent in the \$65,000 she borrowed in student loans. Genthomme, now 24, says living in her parents' home made her feel "like my life was on hold. I didn't feel like an adult." She's far from the only college graduate saddled with debt. About two-thirds of seniors at four-year colleges are carrying student loans. In 2017, the average was more than \$29,000, according to the Institute for College

Access and Success, a nonprofit group advocating affordable higher education. That's up from \$13,000 in 1996, when adjusting for inflation.

"This generation of students is the most debt burdened ever, and it's a huge problem for them," says Melissa Baradaran, a law professor at the University of California, Irvine, who specializes in banking law. "I do think you're going to have a generation of students whose main concern, instead of finding a partner they love and coming up with a career, they have this huge part of their psychological and emotional toll being about the servicing of these debts."

The Soaring Price of an Education
Americans spend more on college than almost anyone else in the world, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

But college in the U.S. didn't always cost so much. Thirty years ago, average tuition and fees for a public university

were less than \$5,000 per year in today's dollars. Now the average is more than \$10,000. The cost of attending a private college has also doubled in that time, from about \$18,000 a year to more than \$36,000 today (see graph, below).

At the same time that college tuition has soared, wages in the U.S. have barely risen, after accounting for inflation. That has made it harder for parents to shoulder the tuition by themselves, and students are increasingly turning to loans.

Why has college gotten so expensive? Economists point to the increasing costs of technology, dorms, and other facilities, as well as to the rising salaries of professors and administrators. For many public universities, they've had to raise tuition because states have cut funding, on average, by about 16 percent from a decade ago.

School officials point out that they offer financial aid, and a large proportion of students don't actually pay full price for college. But for many students, the aid still isn't enough, and they have to take out loans to supplement it.

After graduation, it can take them years to pay off their debt. A 2017 study of Wisconsin universities found that it takes about 20 years on average for graduates to pay off a bachelor's degree.

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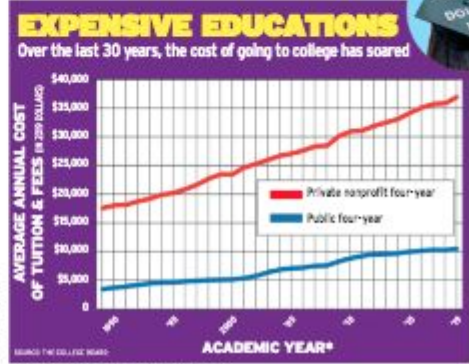
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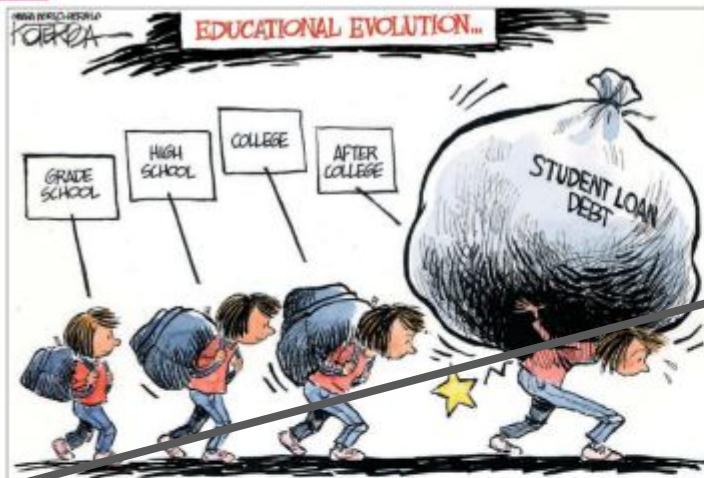
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A sidebar notes important statistics that support the main idea of the article. This also gives the reader background information to better understand the article.

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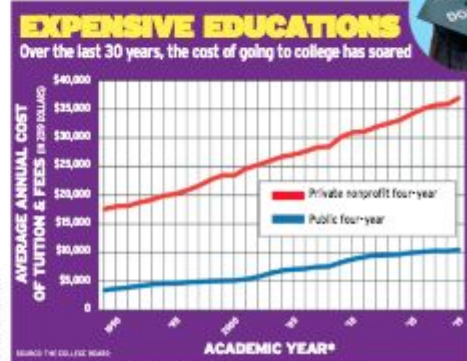
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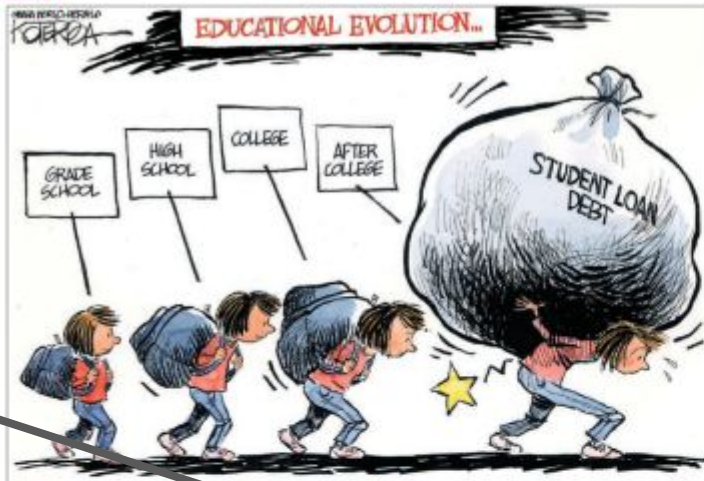
"My loan is a burden to me," says Gentilhomme. "I would love to go to college, but I can't afford it."

According to a survey, however, 40 percent of college debtors with a net worth of \$24,000 or less, 52 percent of those with a net worth of \$25,000 to \$49,999, and 61 percent of those with a net worth of \$50,000 or more, plan to pay off their student loans within the next five years.

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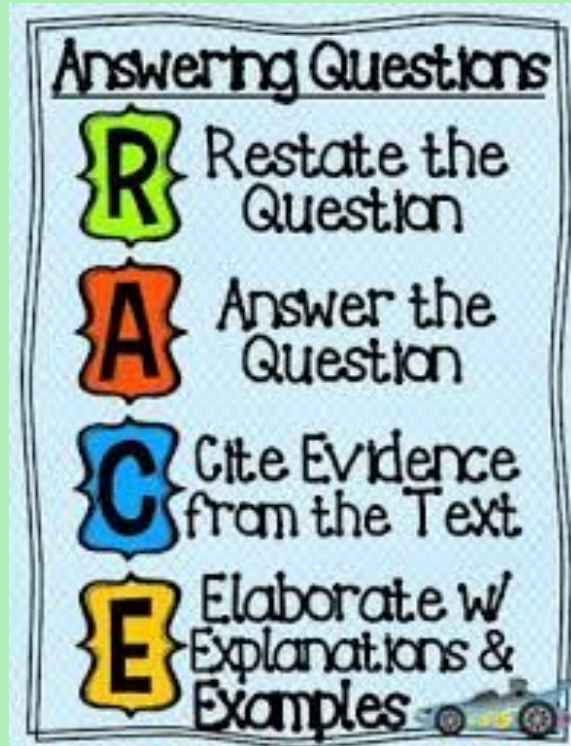


Learn:

- Now you can see how visual elements and text features assist the reader in making meaning of a text.
- Authors and editors carefully design magazines and website pages with visual elements to assist the reader.
- Nothing is accidental. It is done with care and purpose.
- Now it is your turn to notice the visual elements of a text and see how they help you to understand the information being presented.

Learn (continued):

- Use the RACE strategy to write your answer to questions asking you to make an inference:



Practice:

- Read and examine the slides that follow. The slides zoom in on different features of magazine pages. After looking through the entire article and all its visual elements you will answer the questions below.



- On notebook paper, answer the following question using what you learned about visual elements of text. Write your answer using the RACE strategy.
 1. Why did the author choose to include the map and globe?
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THE AMAZON UNDER FIRE

To aid its struggling economy, Brazil has allowed massive destruction of the rainforest, raising fears about the consequences for the rest of the planet

BY PATRICIA SMITH

Brazilian firefighters battle a fire in the Amazon in September. Most of the fires are intentionally set to clear land.

Few months late last year, black clouds hung over the Amazon rainforest as work crews burned and chain-sawed through it. When the rainy season arrived in December, the smoke finally cleared and gave the world a shocking view of the damage.

Brazil's space agency reported that in a single year, more than 3,700 square miles of the Amazon had been razed—a swath of jungle nearly the size of the entire country of Lebanon torn from Earth's largest rainforest.

It was the biggest loss in Brazilian rainforest in a decade, and many scientists saw it as stark evidence of just how badly the Amazon has fared



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Bolsonaro, a pro-business populist, has vowed to open the rainforest to industry and scale back its protections. His government has followed through,

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Environmentalists and scientists are deeply worried about whether the Amazon can survive the onslaught.

"It confirms the Amazon is completely lawless," says Carlos Nobre, a climate scientist at the University of São Paulo, adding, "It is a worrying warning for the future."

Nobre says the Amazon may soon cross a tipping point and begin to self-destruct. Once a certain amount



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Per Capita GDP

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Unemployment Rate

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Practice Answer Key:

(Answers will Vary)

- Check your answers to make sure it meets the following criteria:
 - Did you write in complete sentences?
 - Did you use standard conventions (spelling, punctuation, grammar)?
 - Did you answer the question?
 - Did you support and explain your answer using details from the article

Sample Proficient Answers:

1. *The globe and map were included so that a reader could see where, on the globe and in relation to their own country, Brazil is located. The map also denotes in dark green where the Amazon Rainforest is which helps the reader understand the size of Brazil versus the size of the rainforest. This is important because the article is discussing how and why Brazil is using the rainforest for its own economic gain.*
2. *The Brazil BY THE NUMBERS shares important statistics that represent the entire main idea of the article. The statistics are the unemployment rate which is “12.8%” and the percentage of the Amazon Rainforest that is in Brazil which is “60%” (Smith, 2020). Because of the unemployment rate, the country chose to use its vast natural resource to try to improve the lives of its citizens through employment.*

If you want to learn more...Additional Resource:

Check out this photo associated with the story you just read and then analyze it using the [questions and prompts \(linked here!\)](#).

