ACT Reading Test

Preparation

A COL

ACT Reading Test Prep

- 40 total questions divided into four equal sections
 - Prose fiction
 - Humanities
 - Social studies
 - Natural sciences
- 35 minutes to answer all 40 questions



Prose Fiction

- Passages from short stories or novels
- Passages include
 - Narration of events, revelation of character, plot, characters, mood



Humanities

- Architecture, art, dance, ethics, film, language, literary criticism, memoirs, music, personal essays, philosophy, radio, television, theater
- Describe or analyze ideas or works of art
- Written as fact and present information



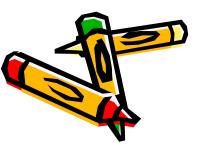
Social Sciences

- Anthropology, archaeology, biography, business, economics, education, geography, history, political science, psychology, sociology
- Typically present information gathered by research (names, dates, concepts)
- Deal with cause-effect, comparisons, sequence of events



Natural Sciences

- Anatomy, astronomy, biology, botany, chemistry, ecology, geology, medicine, meteorology, microbiology, natural history, physiology, physics, technology, zoology
- Presents a science topic and explanation of topic's significance
- Focus on relationships between natural phenomena instead of characters
- More cause-effect relationships, comparisons, sequences of events



The ACT tests on...

- Your ability to understand the passages that appear in the test
- Critical thinking skills
- Does not test your ability to remember relevant facts from outside the passage, but rather your ability to analyze the passages
- Do not need to be knowledgeable about the subject matter, but you do need to read attentively and think carefully about what you read



General Types of Questions

- Identify and interpret skills
- Determine the main idea of paragraph or passage
- Understand relationships (compare/contrast)
- Understand cause and effect



General Types of Questions (cont.)

- "not" or "except" questions that ask you to find the answer that is not supported by the passage
- Pick out single detail from passage
- Determine author's voice (style, attitude and point of view) and method (main purpose of piece or what role the piece plays)

