

BEFORE READING Piracy Bites!

persuasive nonfiction by Reps. Lamar Smith and Edolphus Towns

Reading Strategies

- Plan and Monitor
- Determine Importance
- Make Inferences
- Ask Questions
- Make Connections
- **Synthesize**
- Visualize

Evaluate Argument

When you **evaluate** an argument, you decide if the evidence a writer presents is credible and persuasive enough to support the writer’s claim.

Look Into the Text

The writer uses an analogy, or comparison.

Piracy in Cyberspace
by Rep. Lamar Smith

Pirates still exist, but they aren’t like the pirates of the past. The modern day thieves are engaged in the theft of intellectual property.... Intellectual property represents the largest single sector of the American economy, employing 4.3 million Americans.

This sentence gives a statistic to provide support for the claim.

The writer gives an ethical reason, or a reason why the claim is the moral thing to do.

Piracy Hurts Everyone Both Online and Offline
by Rep. Edolphus Towns

... The rush to make all content available online ... has real world consequences. These consequences ... affect small urban record stores, rural used booksellers, and other retailers.... These are small businesses that provide jobs in my community, ... and theft ... affects the ability of these small business owners to exist. **I have a serious problem with that.**

Notice the emotional language.

Focus Strategy ► Synthesize

When you read persuasive writing about a particular issue, it is a good idea to read the argument of more than one writer. You can evaluate each writer’s argument and compare evidence across texts to gain a greater understanding of the issue.

How to Compare Evidence

Use a chart to compare both writers’ evidence.

- 1. As you read, write examples of effective evidence provided by each writer.
- 2. Determine your own understanding based on your evaluation of both writers’ works.

Focus Strategy

Types of Evidence	Rep. Smith	Rep. Towns
Facts / Statistics	4.3 million work in intellectual property	no statistics provided
Examples	modern pirates steal intellectual property	piracy affects small business

My understanding: Stealing intellectual property has become a serious crime.