FCAT READING SKILL
Identify Conclusions or Generalizations

1. **What to do and what to watch for:** After identifying the main idea and significant details, you can begin to make inferences in order to draw conclusions and make generalizations. Conclusions and generalizations are not directly stated in the reading, so you have to be a good detective.

2. **Read the passage carefully. Identify the main idea. Check out details.**
Try to visualize in your mind what you are reading about. Picture it in your mind. Use your own common sense and ability to solve problems. Drawing a conclusion is based on your own reason and logical thinking about the facts you read in the passage. A **Conclusion** is a logical result of thinking about the information in the reading. A **Generalization** will take your conclusion one step further. A generalization allows you to apply that conclusion to other similar situations outside of the reading.

3. **Read actively. Make inferences.**
When you read, you can predict what you think will happen next. You make your prediction based on making **inferences:**

   ![Diagram](image.png)

   **Inferences.** An inference is a guess that you make while you are reading. You guess based on what you already know. Think about the information and details given. Then, you use your own knowledge to predict what you think might happen. Your own knowledge is essential to making inferences. Examples:

   a) **If a friend invites you to a party, you don’t have to ask every detail about the party.** You already know that at parties certain things happen, like music, food gifts or games. You infer that the party will have some of these things. Asking or writing every detail would be boring. Parties are quite predictable.

   b) **When you go to the beach, you already know some things about beaches.** You can predict that there will be sand and sunshine. If the beach is located in a tropical climate, there would be certain kinds of trees, plants and birds that would be different from a beach in a colder climate. The time of year may also be important. A beach sometimes is different in summer than winter.
4. Read actively. Draw conclusions. A conclusion is a decision that you make after thinking about all the information you have. Just like a detective, you must pay attention to the facts. The facts are like clues that you have to look for so you can understand the reading. By putting together all of the clues, you are solving a mystery. You are a good thinker, so the facts will lead you to the conclusion (without anyone telling you) if you follow them carefully. Ask yourself some questions while you read:

   a) What are the facts, details or clues?
   b) What are the details leading up to?
   c) What will happen next?

5. A conclusion is NOT stated directly in the passage, but must be related to the information in the reading. You make conclusions all the time without thinking about it, or anyone telling you specifically. Drawing conclusions is a natural process that you go through when you are reading. Most of the time you don’t even think about it. You are always figuring things out every day. Just like in your daily life, you add up the clues or details, and put them together with your knowledge. Be logical and reasonable.

   ![Inference and Conclusion Diagram]

   a) Example #1: The sky is dark with storm clouds. What do you predict will happen? It will probably rain! You look at the storm clouds (detail/information) plus your knowledge (dark clouds are usually rain clouds), and you draw the conclusion that it will rain.

   b) Example #2: The glass fell from the table. What do you think happened? The glass broke! You add up the information (the glass fell) plus your knowledge (glasses are fragile and break when you drop them), and you draw the conclusion that the glass broke.

6. Make Generalizations. Think about how to apply your conclusion to other real life situations. Remember that your conclusions are based only on the information in the text and your own knowledge about the subject in the passage. A GENERALIZATION will take your conclusion one step further.

Cassandra Yorke
Department of Multicultural Education
Generalization. A **generalization** allows you to apply that conclusion to other similar situations outside of the reading.

6. **To make a generalization, think about your conclusions, and then ask:**
   
   a) *How does this conclusion apply to the bigger picture of life?*
   
   b) *Is there a lesson that can be learned?*
   
   c) *How could this conclusion be useful in similar situations?*

   Using the above examples, you could make these generalizations:

   a) Example #1: *The sky is dark with storm clouds.*
      Conclusion: It will rain.
      Generalization: Dark storm clouds mean bad weather.

   b) Example #2: *The glass fell from the table.*
      Conclusion: The glass broke.
      Generalization: Be careful not to drop glass. You'll have to buy more.

7. **Follow this model to make conclusions & generalizations:**

   *Example:*

   *Puppies are used in nursing homes for elderly people. The senior citizens enjoy playing with the puppies. They become very attached to these puppies, and really look forward to their visits. The seniors give and receive love with great joy. Their health improves and they don’t feel alone anymore.*

Cassandra Yorke
Department of Multicultural Education
**Main Idea:** Puppies are used in nursing homes for elderly people.

**Detail:** Seniors play with pups.
**Detail:** They get attached and look forward to visits.
**Detail:** They give and receive love.
**Detail:** Their health improves.

**Add what I know on the subject:**
Puppies are adorable. Puppies make you feel good and it is easy to love them. Many people have puppies to make their lives happier.

**Possible Conclusions:**
1) Senior citizens can feel alone and unloved
2) Having a pet really improves the quality of life.

**Possible Generalizations:** (How does this apply to the bigger picture of life? Is there a lesson to be learned?)
1) Love, affection and laughter can improve your attitude and health.
2) Families need to give time, love and affection to the elder members.

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<th>ADD WHAT I KNOW ON THE SUBJECT:</th>
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<th>POSSIBLE CONCLUSIONS:</th>
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<th>POSSIBLE GENERALIZATIONS: (How does this apply to the bigger picture of life? Is there a lesson to be learned?)</th>
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CONCLUSIONS & GENERALIZATIONS

Title/Topic/Chapter

How does your conclusion apply to important real life situations? Is there a lesson that can be learned? What generalization can be made?

GENERALIZATIONS
(Apply To Situations Outside The Reading)

____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

CONCLUSIONS
(Details + Your Knowledge)

____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

DETAILS

____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

MAIN IDEA

____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

Name: _________________________________

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Department of Multicultural Education
How does your conclusion apply to important real life situations? Is there a lesson that can be learned? What generalization can be made?

Generalization

Conclusion

Details

Main Idea

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### CONCLUSIONS AND GENERALIZATIONS MODEL

**MAIN IDEA:**

**DETAIL 1:**

**DETAIL 2:**

**DETAIL 3:**

**ADD WHAT I KNOW ON THE SUBJECT:**
1
2
3

**POSSIBLE CONCLUSIONS:**
1
2

**POSSIBLE GENERALIZATIONS:** *(How does this apply to the bigger picture of life? Is there a lesson to be learned?)*
1
2
CONCLUSIONS & GENERALIZATIONS

Title/Topic/Chapter__________________________________

First Set of Events:

Second Set of Events:

Conclusions:

Generalization

Generalization

Generalization