AP® ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

Reading Pre-20th Century Prose Excerpts

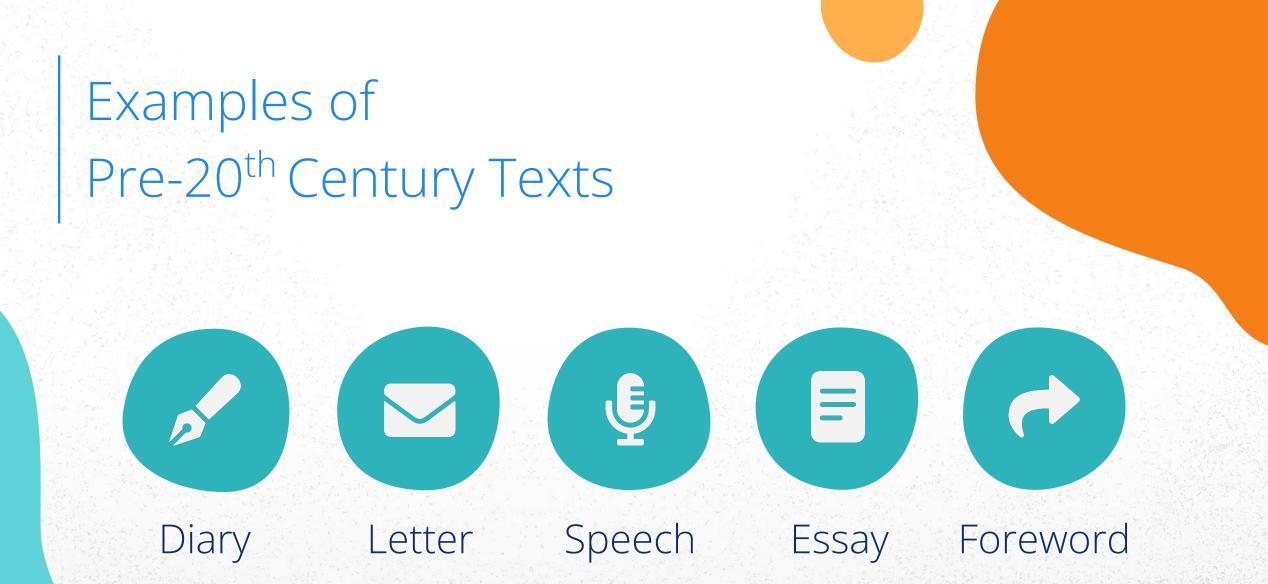
UWorld

COLLEGE READINESS

S

Reading texts published before 1900 may be challenging for several reasons. By knowing a few strategies, you can make sense of the writer's ideas and successfully answer questions about them.







Challenges of Pre-20th Century Texts

Unfamiliar contexts and references

- Challenging vocabulary
- Complex sentences
- Lengthy paragraphs



Key Strategy #1

Preview the Passage



Key Strategy Preview the Passage

- Identify position and content of footnotes
- Observe number and length of paragraphs
- Note the introductory information above the excerpt



Sample introductory information

The excerpt below is from a speech Frederick Douglass delivered at a public meeting hall in Boston, Massachusetts, December 1860, and later published in his newspaper, *The North Star*.



Author

- Audience
- Occasion

Date

Context

Exigence

Purpose

The excerpt below is from a speech Frederick Douglass delivered at a public meeting hall in Boston, Massachusetts, December 1860, and later published in his newspaper, *The North Star*.







We Make Really Hard Stuff Easy to Understand

collegereadiness.uworld.com

