

# Preparing to Read

**Sunshine State Standards: Benchmarks**  
 LA.910.1.6.7 identify and understand the meaning of conceptually advanced prefixes, suffixes, and root words; Also covered LA.910.2.2.2; LA.910.2.2.4; LA.910.6.2.4; LA.910.6.3.1; LA.910.6.3.2



## Reader/Writer Notebook

Use your RWN to complete the activities for these selections.

### Kaavya Viswanathan: Unconscious Copycat or Plagiarist? / Kaavya Syndrome

#### Informational Text Focus

**Evaluating Arguments** When presented with opposing views on an issue, how do you decide which to agree with? To evaluate pro and con arguments, considering the following questions:

1. What is the claim, and how is it supported? Check that facts, statistics, examples, and quotes from experts have been used.
2. Is the argument logical? Check that the author's reasons make sense and are relevant. Look for logical fallacies, (errors in logical thinking) which fall into the following categories:
  - **Circular reasoning.** Making statements that look like reasons or conclusions but simply restate the author's opinion.
  - **False cause and effect.** Stating that one event caused another when the two events are not truly related.
  - **Hasty generalizations.** Presenting broad statements as facts when they are actually based on only one or two cases.
  - **Personal attacks.** Focusing on an opponent's character or judgment rather than the issue.
3. How comprehensive is the support? Check that the writer provides reasons and sufficient evidence to support generalizations, and evaluate how well the writer deals with opposing evidence.

**Into Action** Use the chart below to record information from the blog and Web article to help you evaluate each author's argument.

	Blog	Web Article
Claim and Support		
Logic of Argument		
Comprehensiveness		

#### Writing Focus

Preparing for **Extended Response**

As you read, keep track of the details you find most persuasive in your Reader/Writer Notebook.

Counter claim = when the author (or you - in essay writing) acknowledge the other side of the argument, in order to make his/hour side stronger.

#### Vocabulary

### Kaavya Viswanathan: Unconscious Copycat or Plagiarist?

**internalized** (ihn TUR nuh lyzd) v.: adopted as one's own. *Kaavya internalized the writer's words and made them her own.*

**reasonable** (makes sense)

**perseverance** (pur suh VIHR uhns) n.: sticking to a purpose; never giving up. *The scholar exhibited great perseverance in committing every page of the book to memory.*

**inadvertent** (ihn ahd VUR tuhnt) adj.: unintentional, accidental; not done on purpose. *Kaavya claimed her actions were inadvertent because she did not realize she was copying someone else's words.*

#### Language Coach

**Word Parts** Look carefully at the list of Vocabulary words. Do you recognize any word parts? Write the list of words in your Reader/Writer Notebook, and circle the word parts. How do those word parts help you understand the meanings of the words?

Example: While some may argue that having year round school is beneficial because we get a lot more breaks, in reality we're going to get a lot longer school.

**Learn It Online**  
Practice evaluating arguments with the interactive Reading Workshop online:

go.hrw.com L9-579 Go

# NOTES (example videos & lecture):

LOGICAL FALLACIES - see #2 on front  
↳ "BAD Thinking"

## 1. Circular reasoning

\* think about when someone tries to "talk circles" around you - their argument may not make sense but it seems like they are winning because they are talking so confidently (& sometimes quickly, loudly, & over you) - the point is for them to make you "mentally dizzy" in order to win.

\* video example: Elaine/Seinfeld episode/new #  
"No, it's not a new #, it's just a changed #. See it's not different, it's the same, just changed."

## 2. False Cause & effect

\* video ex.: Friends episode/broken fridge + new roomie  
Joey's fridge breaks because it is SUPER old. He blames Rachael (who's staying with him for a couple weeks) for it breaking. Her arrival did NOT cause the fridge to break.  
event 1 event 2

## 3. Hasty Generalizations

\* hasty = in a hurry/knee jerk reaction/jumping to conclusions  
generalizations = blanket statements like stereotyping  
example = Racism (cannot say All of a race is a certain way based off of your encounter with just a few of that race)

\* video ex.: Taco Bell ad - "Guys love bacon."

## 4. Personal Attacks (aka. Ad Hominem Attacks)

\* When you attack the person instead of the argument.  
video ex.: He's not a good doctor because he can't play sports.

NON example: He's not a good doctor b/c he prescribes cigarettes to treat cancer.

↳ (If the attack is related to the issue, it's NOT a personal attack)  
\* seen often in political campaign ads.