

Charting a Text: Following an Author's Argument

The ability to decipher the difference between what the author is **saying** (the literal interpretation) and what the author is **doing** (the way in which an author presents his/her viewpoint) strengthens a reader's understanding. In order to separate the two (saying vs. doing) a reader must analyze one or more paragraphs at a time. To accurately account for what an author is saying and doing, you will want to ask two questions: the first, *What have I learned from this paragraph?*; and the second, *How does the author present this information to his or her readers?* When explaining what an author is doing, begin with a verb.

¶(s)	What is the author saying ? (Fact-Finding)	What is the author doing ? (Analysis/Evaluation)