Lesson 2.1: Reading “The Human Microbiome”

Today, you will return to your bacteria culture to see more evidence about microorganisms that came from your body! Then, you’ll read more about these microorganisms in “The Human Microbiome” article. Using this article, you will begin to learn how to read like a scientist, carefully and actively, making sure you understand the text and images. You will record your questions and ideas as you read, and you’ll have a chance to discuss your thoughts about the article with others. After reading today, you’ll have a better understanding of what the human microbiome is and how it is possible to have trillions of microorganisms on and in the human body.

Unit Question
• How can having 100 trillion microorganisms on and in the human body keep us healthy?

Chapter 2 Question
• How can fecal transplants cure patients infected with harmful bacteria?

Vocabulary
• cells
• microbiome
• microorganism
• microscopic
• organism
• scale
Warm-Up

Observing Microorganisms: Day 9

Refer to the Day 9 image of the petri dish that your teacher projected, and answer the questions below.

Can you see evidence of microorganisms? (circle one)  yes  no

Describe what you observe in the petri dish.

___________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________
Introducing Active Reading

Analyzing Example Annotations

• What do you notice about this student’s annotations?

• How do you know that she was thinking carefully while reading and trying to understand the text?
Reading “The Human Microbiome”

1. Read and annotate the article “The Human Microbiome.”

2. Choose and mark annotations to discuss with your partner. Once you have discussed these annotations, mark them as discussed.

3. Now, choose and mark a question or connection, either one you already discussed or a different one you still want to discuss with the class.

4. Answer the reflection questions below.

How similar is Active Reading to the way you normally read?

☐ I always read this way.
☐ It is somewhat similar to how I normally read.
☐ It is very different from the way I normally read.

As I read, I paid attention to my own understanding and recorded my thoughts and questions.

☐ Never
☐ Almost never
☐ Sometimes
☐ Frequently/often
☐ All the time

Active Reading Guidelines

1. Think carefully about what you read. Pay attention to your own understanding.

2. As you read, annotate the text to make a record of your thinking. Highlight challenging words and add notes to record questions and make connections to your own experience.

3. Examine all visual representations carefully. Consider how they go together with the text.

4. After you read, discuss what you have read with others to help you better understand the text.