10 High-Stakes Test Terms To Know

1 **Choose**: To select from a number of possibilities. Similar words: select, pick, determine, identify

2 **Compare**: Common characteristics, identify how things are alike or similar

3 **Contrast**: Characteristics that are not alike. Identify how things are different

4 **Summarize**: Give a brief overview of the main points

5 **Explain**: Think of the five (5) W's and one (1) H. Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How

6 **Conclude/Conclusion**: To arrive at a decision, to close or bring to an end

7 **Infer**: "Read between the lines"; the answer is not clearly stated in the passage. Use knowledge and experience to draw conclusions

8 **Analyze**: Look at how each aspect of the reading works together to explain the overall meaning. Similar words: assess, evaluate, investigate, inspect

9 **Persuade**: Pick a side of an issue and use evidence and ideas to support that side (complex: address the other side's viewpoint first, then argue why your side is better)

10 **Author's Purpose**: What was the reason the author wrote the passage (basic: inform, persuade, entertain) (complex: persuade readers to do what? OR explain to readers the nature of what?)

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