

SciJourn Read-Aloud



FIND THE FLAW

Lack of Attributions

Read paragraph 1 aloud to the class and challenge the students to discover the flaw.

PARAGRAPH 1

CUTLER, Calif. – Over the last decade, the drinking water at thousands of schools across the country has been found to contain unsafe levels of lead, pesticides and dozens of other toxins. The analysis has "clearly identified the tip of an iceberg," said a woman in California. "This tells me there is a widespread problem that needs to be fixed because there are ongoing water quality problems in small and large utilities, as well," she added.

Schools with wells are required to test their water and report any problems to the state, which is supposed to send all violations to the federal government.

Ask for ideas about the possible flaw in the paragraph. (Do not comment on the responses.)

Read paragraph 2 aloud to the class and once again challenge students to discover the flaw.

PARAGRAPH 2

CUTLER, Calif. – Over the last decade, the drinking water at thousands of schools across the country has been found to contain unsafe levels of lead, pesticides and dozens of other toxins. The analysis has "clearly identified the tip of an iceberg," said Gina Solomon, a woman in San Francisco. "This tells me there is a widespread problem that needs to be fixed because there are ongoing water quality problems in small and large utilities, as well," she added.

Schools with wells are required to test their water and report any problems to the state, which is supposed to send all violations to the federal government.

Ask for ideas about the flaw in the paragraph. (Do not comment on the responses.)

Read paragraph 3 to the class. Ask how it is improved from paragraphs 1 and 2.

PARAGRAPH 3

CUTLER, Calif. – Over the last decade, the drinking water at thousands of schools across the country has been found to contain unsafe levels of lead, pesticides and dozens of other toxins. The analysis has "clearly identified the tip of an iceberg," said Gina Solomon, a San Francisco physician who serves on an EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) drinking water advisory board. "This tells me there is a widespread problem that needs to be fixed because there are ongoing water quality problems in small and large utilities, as well," she added.

Schools with wells are required to test their water and report any problems to the state, which is supposed to send all violations to the federal government.

Discuss the importance of complete attributions to increase credibility.