

Refining Main Ideas: A Dialogue

HIM/HER: Who, What, Where, How, When, Why	YOU: State as Proposition or Assertion
What is your point?	Reading sucks.
Why?	Reading sucks when it's boring.
When is it boring?	Reading is boring when I'm forced to read things I'm not interested in.
What do you read that is hard this way?	Much of the reading I do in school is challenging because I'm simply not interested in the subject. But I also think part of it is the <i>kinds</i> of reading I'm forced to do in school.
What kinds?	Textbooks are an excellent example. I'm not sure why academic textbooks need to sound so boring.
Why do you think?	Maybe one reason is that they are supposed to come off as having all the answers, and as a reader, I often feel like I'm being talked down to.
And your point is? (Use the pronoun "we")	Often we resist reading things we either forced to read or aren't interested in. These are texts we complain are simply boring. Sometimes, however, it isn't just the content that puts us off, it's the tone and the relationship it sets up between author and reader.