

Grossmont College Services Unit

Important Components of a Reading

What are the
different parts
of a reading?

When someone talks about a reading, they may use some words to talk about the different parts of the reading.

You will learn some of the most common ones today, but remember that readings will look differently depending on what genre they belong to.

Students at Many Small Colleges Now Have Programs to Feel More Welcome

By *The Hechinger Report* (adapted)



Audrey Olmos-Govea remembers sitting in class at Smith College. She could not believe what she had just heard. The teacher turned to the students and said, “You’ve all been to Europe, right?” Most of her classmates said they had. It made Olmos-Govea feel as if she did not belong there. She is the

Title



A red speech bubble graphic with a white outline, containing the word "Title" in white text. The bubble has a tail pointing downwards and to the left.

Title

When someone talks about the reading “title,” they are talking about the name of the reading.

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Byline



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Byline

A **byline** shows the name of the author or organization that wrote the material you are reading.

Many times, you will find the byline between the title and the reading text, but it could be at the bottom of the page, too.

Many Colleges Help And Encourage Poorer Students

Smith is a very good college in Northampton, Massachusetts. It costs \$63,950 each year, not including books. Many of Omos-Govea's classmates are rich. Omos-Govea gets a scholarship, which is money for school. It is the only way she can afford to go. Olmos-Govea is in her third year at Smith. She came from a town in California where nearly 4 out of 10 people over age 25 did not finish high school. Most of them do not speak English at home.

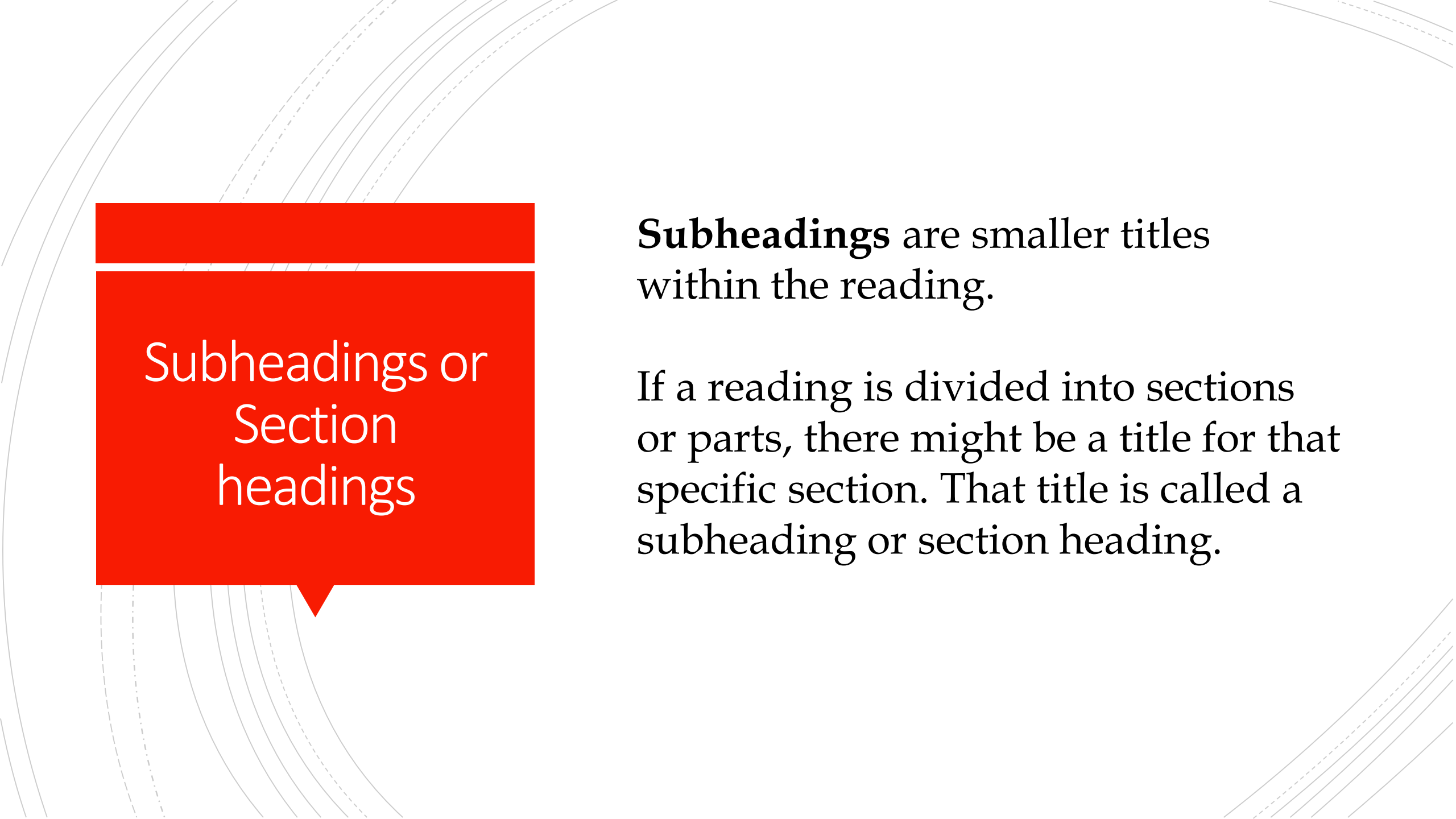
In the last few years, more and more students like such as Olmos-Govea. Her parents are first-generation students will finish college. The group does studies and it takes four years to graduate. The

"Hanging With My People"

At Smith, 1 out of every 5 new students is both a first-generation American and first-generation college student. Five years ago, the school created a program to help them. It encourages them to connect with other students. It also gives those young people a chance to learn about Smith before classes begin. The purpose of the program is to help them be more confident and feel that they belong.

"Last year I was talking to a student who was homesick. I started talking to her like I would any other homesick student," said Marge Litchford. She started the program for first-generation students at Smith. "But then I realized she wasn't going to see her parents for the whole year because she couldn't afford to fly home."

Subheadings or
Section headings

The background features several sets of curved lines in the top-left and bottom-right corners. Each set consists of a solid grey line, a dashed grey line, and another solid grey line, all curving towards the center of the page.

Subheadings or Section headings

Subheadings are smaller titles within the reading.

If a reading is divided into sections or parts, there might be a title for that specific section. That title is called a subheading or section heading.

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Picture/Graphic

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A red speech bubble graphic with a white outline, containing the word "Graphics" in white text. The bubble has a tail pointing downwards and to the left.

Graphics

Many readings contain **pictures** or other types of **graphic elements** (maps, graphs, charts, tables, etc.) to make the reading easier to understand or to catch the reader's attention.

A red speech bubble graphic with a white outline, containing the text 'The Reading Text'. The bubble has a tail pointing downwards and to the right.

The Reading Text

When someone wants to talk about the entire text of the reading, they might use one of these words:

- **The reading text**
- **The reading**
- **The article**
- **The whole text**
- **The passage**

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In the last few years, more and more small colleges are trying to help first-generation Americans such as Olmos-Govea. Her parents are poor and were born in Mexico. Just 3 out of 10 first-generation students will finish college within six years, a group known as the Pell Institute found. The group does studies and encourages first-generation students to go to college. Usually, it takes four years to graduate. The poorest students, like Olmos-Govea, have only a 1 in 10

chance of graduating by age 24. Many of these colleges know what keeps first-generation students from graduating. The schools are expensive. Students may not be prepared for the difficult classes. They might also be afraid of asking for help.

"Hanging With My People"

At Smith, 1 out of every 5 new students is both a first-generation American and first-generation college student. Five years ago, the school created a program to help them. It encourages them to connect with other students. It also gives those young people a chance to learn about Smith before classes begin. The purpose of the program is to help them be more confident and feel that they belong.

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Not long ago, 12 new Smith students listened to college President Kathleen McCartney. She was the first in her family to go to college. McCartney told the students that a high school instructor talked her out of applying to go to a very good college. She applied to a top university near her home anyway and got in. McCartney described how hard it was to work part time and go to class. After her talk, she tweeted a photo of the group. The students called it "Hanging with my people @smithcollege #FirstGenSmithies"

The Efforts Are Working

There are few first-generation students at the best colleges, a University of Michigan study said. However, some small colleges are trying to change that. They are making an effort to get more first-generation students. They are succeeding at it.

At Smith, about 9 out of 10 first-generation students will graduate in four years. As a new student, Olmos-Govea did not feel very comfortable. Now she is full of confidence. "Being here," Olmos-Govea said, "has taught me how to handle myself in those situations. It hasn't made me any less scared. But Smith has taught me to question."

Sections

Often readings are divided into **sections**. Each section is comprised of sentences or paragraphs that talk about the same topic. A lot of times, sections have their own small title or subheading.

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Paragraphs

A group of sentences that are grouped together is called a **paragraph**.

Often times you will hear someone talk about paragraph number when they want you to know which part of the reading they are referring to.

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1

2

3

Sentences

You already know that a **sentence** begins with a capitalized word and ends with a **period** (.)

A sentence could also end in a **question mark** (?) or an **exclamation point** (!)

When talking about a reading, you can use sentence numbers to make sure the person you speak to knows exactly what part of the reading you are referring to.

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The fourth sentence in the first paragraph says that most of Audrey Olmos-Govea’s classmates had gone to Europe.

Lines

Sometimes readings will have **line** numbers or someone will reference line numbers when they talk about a reading. Line numbers are different than sentence numbers.

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Line 11 says how much money Audrey’s family earns.