

Main Idea Summarizing

This strategy provides students with a specific set of steps for creating and evaluating a main idea from a passage. It helps students to summarize the passage using details.

Teacher Preparation:

1. Select a passage for students to read.
2. Prepare a Main Idea organizer (3-8-2).
3. Make a copy of the organizer for each student.

Lesson Plan:

1. Assign students the passage to read and distribute copies of the graphic organizer for analyzing the main idea.
2. As they read, have the students identify five to fifteen words or phrases they feel are important.
3. Ask the students to look over the words and determine the topic of the passage. (What is the subject of the passage?) The topic should be a noun or phrase.
4. Have the students use the key words to establish a main idea and write a sentence which explains what the passage is saying about the topic. The subject of the sentence should be the noun or noun phrase.
5. Have the students list the details in the passage that support the main idea. If the students cannot find enough details, they should write another main idea or pick a new topic.
6. Discuss with students what they have written and have them evaluate and refine the process.
7. Have students summarize the text, beginning with the main idea and using details to support it.

Adapted from a workshop conducted by Daniel R. Moirao for the Academically Gifted Department of the Wake County Public School System in April, 2006

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Key Words		
_____	_____	_____
_____	<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;">Topic: _____</div>	_____
_____		_____
_____		_____
_____		_____
_____		_____
Main Idea		
Support	Support	Support
Summary		