

Writing Summaries

What:

Some people suggest that the best way to check your understanding of something is to explain it to someone else. That is the core of summarizing. Students will be given the opportunity to develop this skill. They will learn to use it as a self-check on their own understanding and as a communication skill.

At Home:

- Have students summarize non-school related articles, TV shows, conversations
- Have students summarize two-column notes
- Have students summarize a top-down topic web

How To Write A Summary:

1. Read the material and identify the main ideas. Distinguish the main ideas from the details.
2. Write the main ideas in phrase form. The main ideas can be noted in a list, in a topic web, or in the left column of two-column notes.
3. Begin the summary with an introductory statement.
4. Turn the main ideas into sentences, occasionally including details when it is necessary to convey the main idea.
5. Combine the sentences into one or more paragraphs.
6. Use transition words to connect the sentences and the paragraphs.
7. Proofread the summary for punctuation, spelling, sentence structure, and content.

Developing Questions

What:

Student will become familiar with the vocabulary of question prompts. (i.e. describe, compare, contrast, evaluate and create.) They will learn to develop questions as they read and after reading. This skill helps students deal with difficult testing situations. They will have the opportunity to predict what type of questions are mostly likely and how to address answering them completely.

At Home:

- Develop questions from school readings for students as examples
- Take turns developing questions and answering questions
- Create your own tests and quizzes while studying

How to Develop Questions:

Create a question from notes and readings for each of the headings on the table below using one of the key terms under that heading:

Question Terms

Remembering	Understanding	Applying	Analyzing	Evaluating	Creating
Cite	Describe	Adapt	Analyze	Appraise	Assemble
Define	Discuss	Apply	Arrange	Assess	Compile
Find	Explain	Compute	Categorize	Choose	Compose
Give an example	Interpret	Demonstrate	Compare	Conclude	Concoct
Identify	Paraphrase	Dramatize	Contrast	Criticize	Construct
Label	Report	Draw	Deconstruct	Critique	Create
List	Restate in own words	Illustrate	Detect	Debate	Design
Locate	Retell	Implement	Dissect	Deduce	Develop
Match	Review	Interview	Distinguish	Defend	Devise
Name	Summarize	Make	Examine	Hypothesize	Formulate
Quote	Translate	Operate	Group	Judge	Generate
Recall		Practice	Inspect	Justify	Imagine
Recite		Role play	Integrate	Prioritize	Invent
Recognize		Sequence	Organize	Rank	Make
Retrieve		Solve	Probe	Rate	Originate
Show		Use	Research	Reject	Prepare
			Separate	Validate	Produce
			Sift		Set up
					What if?



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