



Student Tasks:

- Read or listen to text
- Take notes about new information
- Summarize new information
- Determine importance of new information

Online ThinkCERCA Resources

- Reading passages and text selections

Courtesy of:

Erin Beatty; Cincinnati Public Schools

Get the Gist?

Summarize the Central Idea and main points of a text through analyzing chunks

Suggested Time: Add approximately 15 minutes to anticipated reading time

Strategy

Students determine the Central Idea and most important details of a text by summarizing in chunks. Summarizing a full text, or large sections of text, is a strategy that helps readers make meaning of complex texts. Identifying the Central Idea of smaller chunks in a larger or more complex text can help students consolidate information and determine its importance to the overall point and purpose.

Optimal Application Notes

Great for longer, rigorous texts that introduce many different details.

Before:

- Pre-read the text and determine where each “chunk” should begin and end; where is a new detail introduced. Use this for pausing if reading as a whole class or for prompting and feedback if students will read independently.
- Remind students that as they read each chunk, they are asking themselves the questions on the top of the handout.

During:

- Read the first chunk together and complete the first three columns together as a whole class; Paragraph #s, 3-5 Words or Phrases, and Gist Summary.
- Either release the students to continue independently or,
- Pause the reading after each chunk to allow students to complete the first three columns.
- Circulate and monitor during the entire reading to ensure accurate completion of columns and provide feedback.

After:

- Instruct students to skim through all their notes and determine whether they have an idea of the overall Central Idea of the text. If not, guide a discussion to help clarify what it is.
- Give students time to go back and complete the final column, Level of Importance, for each chunk.
- Work together as a class to determine which points should be included in an overall summary of the text and allow students 5 minutes to draft one.

Skills Targeted:

- Identifying key ideas
- Summarizing
- Relationships between key ideas
- Determining importance of key ideas

Get the Gist?

Instructions: For each section of the text, fill in the paragraph numbers, identify the key words or phrases, and write a 20 word or less GIST of the information you learned. Must be in complete sentences!

Remember to consider...

Read and Think: What is repeated or emphasized throughout the text

Look for Clues: Topic sentences, concluding sentences, or key words

Ask Yourself:

What is the author trying to teach or show me?

What do all the details connect to?

Paragraph #s Ex: Ps 1-3	What are 3-5 important words or phrases in this section?	GIST Summary in 20 words or less. This MUST be in your own words and in a complete sentence!	Level of Importance 1= Not important 2= Somewhat Important 3= Extremely Important