



Student Tasks:

- Read or listen to text
- Identify Central Idea and Key Details of chunks
- Summarize new information in a single sentence

Online ThinkCERCA Resources

- Reading passages and text selections

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One-Sentence Summaries

Summarizing protocol to practice identifying central ideas and key details as well as improving diction

Suggested Time: Add approximately 15 minutes to anticipated reading time

Strategy

Students attempt to summarize the central idea or most important key details from pre-determined chunks of a text into a single complete sentence. This provides great practice in identifying central ideas and key details as students begin developing that skill at grade level. As students progress, the strategy can also be used to help students focus on diction and brevity in their writing.

Optimal Application Notes

Before the lesson, pre-read the text and break into chunks for students to summarize. A new chunk should begin every time a new topic is introduced or a point is completely made. Students do not need the printed text for this strategy but should know the number of chunks and where each starts when they begin.

Before:

- Prep students with reminders about what should and should not be included in a summary.
- Remind students that the central idea is the main idea of the text (or chunk in this case) and that the key details are the details necessary to understand the central idea.
- Explain that students will be looking for the central idea of each chunk and forming that into their own summary but it must be one complete sentence.

During:

- Depending on the length of text and student capacity, consider reading aloud the first chunk and modeling the one-sentence summary.
- If using audio or reading aloud, pause after each chunk to allow students time to write their summary. Encourage them to underline key details as they read to speed up the summarizing process.
- If reading independently, circulate during the entire reading to provide feedback on the summaries as students write.

After:

- Have students share out examples of one-sentence summaries for the same chunk to analyze how the language and writing can vary but still serve the same purpose

Skills Targeted:

- Identifying Central Idea & Key Details
- Summarizing
- Relationships between key ideas