

TEACHING STUDENTS TO SUMMARIZE

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

ABOUT THE STRATEGY

- Students use main idea statements and significant details to write a summary of an entire passage.
- Summarization promotes higher levels of comprehension and retention of more content (e.g., Klingner, Vaughn, & Boardman, 2015).
- Summarization Toolkit:
www.GreatMiddleSchools.org/summarization



SIX STEPS TO SUMMARIZATION

From Archer, Gleason, & Vachon, 2005b

1. **List** the main ideas for each paragraph in the passage.
2. **Underline** the main idea statements that include the most important ideas from the passage.
3. **Combine** any ideas that could go into one sentence.
4. **Number** the ideas in a logical order.
5. **Write** your summary in one paragraph.
6. **Edit** your summary.

SUMMARIZATION: TIPS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- Ask students to summarize **AFTER** reading text at least once a week to support comprehension.
- Make sure students have already learned to write main idea statements (e.g., get the gist) before they are taught to write summaries.
- Consider introducing the summarization strategy through a movie clip.
- Teach students the summarization strategy over several days and include teacher modeling with think alouds.
- Provide correct and incorrect examples of summaries to explicitly teach the features of good summaries.