

STRATEGY: SECONDARY

ONE-SENTENCE SUMMARY

DESCRIPTION

While there are different levels of summarization—from a thorough summarization of a main idea and supporting details to a one or two word summarization—One Sentence Summary falls between the two extremes. Using this strategy, students summarize the main idea and vital details in one sentence. Students transform information to “make it their own.” This brief writing indicates the student’s level of understanding, involves the student in interacting with the content, and provides the teacher with feedback regarding student comprehension.

STEPS FOR IMPLEMENTING THIS STRATEGY:

1. Explicitly teach how to utilize each One-Sentence Summary frame, modeling how to summarize using content familiar to the student. (Teach one sentence type at a time, putting the sentence template on a sentence strip or chart.)
2. Read text, then model selecting one of the summarization sentences and summarizing the information. For some students, you may need to tell them which summarization sentence to utilize, while other students can select the sentence to complete.
3. Write summaries as a whole class; provide many examples and opportunities for practice prior to having students complete the summaries independently.

Students who Benefit:

Experience difficulty in writing,
Reluctant to write, Weak
organizational skills

EXAMPLE: Sentence Frames

Description

A _____ is a kind of _____ that _____.

Sequence

_____ begins with _____, continues with _____ and ends with _____.

Compare and Contrast

_____ and _____ are similar in that both _____, but _____ while _____.

Cause and Effect

_____ causes _____.

Problem and Solution

_____ wanted _____ but _____ so _____.

A slope is a kind of line that you work out to solve for m in the equation $y=mx+b$.

A reflection and a rotation are similar in that both change the point and slope of an object but a reflection is a mirror image of an object across a line while a rotation is when you move it to a different axis.

(One-sentence summary examples from a Geometry class at Four Bluff High School.)

Web 2.0
TIPS

- ▶ Use a computer and create a template for students to complete the sentences.
Use voice to text option.
- ▶ Go Animate at www.goanimate.com

HOT TIPS

- ▶ To encourage brevity, provide students with an index card or post-it note
- ▶ Can be completed orally, used as a journal entry, or written on a note card
- ▶ Can be used to summarize, describe, sequence, compare and contrast or show problem-solution relationships
- ▶ Utilize after a speaker presentation, DVD, technology search, filed trip, etc.
- ▶ Can be completed independently, in pairs or as a group
- ▶ Combine 3-4 one-sentence summaries into a paragraph

Before: This strategy can be utilized to activate prior knowledge, review a concept previously taught or as a pre-assessment.

During: Use to check for understanding during the direct teach of a lesson or lecture.

After: Closure activity at end of lesson or class period to help students synthesize and summarize concepts.