

Strategy: 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.

Steps for Implementing This Strategy

1. Teach each type of One-Sentence Summary, modeling how to summarize using content that is already familiar to the student. (You may teach one sentence type at a time or all at once depending on students' skills.)
2. Read content specific text, then model selecting one of the summarization sentences and summarizing the information.
3. Write summaries together before having students write One-Sentence summaries independently.
4. Students require many examples and practices before being expected to use independently.

Example

One-Sentence Summary Template

Description A _____ is a kind of _____ that _____.
Sequence _____ begins with, continues with _____ and ends with _____.
Compare/Contrast _____ and _____ are similar in that both _____, but _____ while _____.
Cause/Effect _____ causes _____.
Problem/Solution _____ wanted _____ but _____ so _____.

Hot Tips!

- Have students write a one-sentence summary after a direct teach portion of a lesson, lecture, video, quest, speaker, etc.
- Use at the beginning of the lesson to activate prior knowledge or as a closure activity at the end of a lesson.
- Can be completed orally, used as a journal entry, or written on a post-it.
- Can be used to summarize, describe, sequence, compare and contrast and show problem/solution.

