

# Summarization Strategy

## Summaries are<sup>1</sup>:

1. short
2. tell what is most important to the original author
3. written in writer's own words

Students should ask themselves, "What idea is at the center of the original text I am summarizing?"

## Six steps to help students beginning to summarize:

1. Read and think of the original text as a whole. Break into sections to be summarized.
2. Determine the main idea of selection.
3. Determine the supporting ideas.
4. Write a sentence that is broad enough to include both the main idea of the passage, and all supporting ideas. Don't include examples or stories.
5. Check the summary against the original text.
6. Repeat process for next section. There should be no repeat information in a summary.

## Advance Summarizing:

1. Students substitute a sentence that "pulls together" the main idea and supporting ideas.
2. Students also include inferences that they constructed from the ideas.



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<sup>1</sup> Friend, Rosalie. "Teaching summarization as a content area reading strategy." *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy*. 44.4. (2000/2001): 320-329.