

- Distribute 3 x 5 index cards to students and ask them to record each key word on an index card.
- Next, ask students to recall details from the passage that are connected to the keywords. The details relevant to each magnet word should be recorded on the appropriate index card.
- After students have recorded the magnet words and supporting details on cards, show them how to develop the information into a short summary. Have students attempt to develop a one-sentence summary whenever possible.
- Once each card has been summarized, ask students to arrange their sentences (cards) in logical order to develop a coherent summary.
- Students then write a summary from the keywords cards, editing sentences so the summaries will flow smoothly.

Assessment

The Magnet Summaries should accurately sum up the main ideas and critical supporting ideas for the passage in a smooth, coherent summary.

Variations

Other ideas for using this strategy:

- After introducing this strategy, ask students to work in small groups or pairs to determine keywords, relevant and important details, and write the summaries.
- After individual students, student pairs, or small groups have written their summaries, read several aloud and discuss the similarities and differences.
- After students have finished reading a chapter, assign a different section of it to small groups of students. Each group prepares a magnet summary of the assigned portion of text and shares their summary with the rest of the class.

Resources

Sejnost, R. & S. Thiese. (2001). *Reading and Writing Across Content Areas*. Arlington Heights, IL: Skylight Professional Development.

Wood, K.D. & J. M. Harmon. (2001). *Strategies for Integrating Reading and Writing in Middle and High School Classrooms*. Westerville, OH: National Middle School Associations.