

SUMMARIZING

ONE OR TWO-WORD SUMMARIES

- After reading a paragraph, you will suggest one or two words that most clearly summarizes the topic of the paragraph.
- Picking out important concepts and main ideas leads to an understanding of what is read.

STEPS TO ONE OR TWO-WORD SUMMARIES STRATEGY

- Follow along as I read the paragraph.
- Write one word that best summarizes the paragraph.
- Write a brief explanation (a sentence or two) that explains the word choice.
- Pick one word out of your explanation sentence(s) that summarizes the sentence(s).
- Share the word choices and explanations with a partner.
- Discuss the appropriateness and preciseness of the word choices.

Wormeli, Rick. Summarization in Any Subject: 50 Techniques to Improve Students Learning. Alexandria, VA: ASCD, 2005, 122-123

Niagara Falls is on the Niagara River halfway between Lake Ontario and Lake Erie. It is located on the American and Canadian border. The American Falls is 167 feet high. On the Canadian side, the Horseshoe Falls is 161 feet high. Niagara Falls is one of the most visited sights in North America.

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RATIONALE FOR CHOOSING THE WORD

Niagara Falls

Niagara Falls is discussed throughout the entire paragraph. It's location and height are indicated.

Choose a second word from the paragraph that would answer “why” to the rationale sentence(s).

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**Try the same process
with the following
selections:**

The common housefly carries disease germs on the fine hairs of its legs. The filthy living habits of this insect make it a potential carrier of many germs. People often consider the buzzing housefly merely a nuisance, when actually it is a health hazard.

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ONE-SENTENCE PARAPHRASE (1 SP)

- Focus on comprehension rather than specific details.
- Read the paragraph along with me as I read it out loud
- With a partner, write one sentence that reflects your understanding of the paragraph.

The Erie Canal is a 363 mile canal that connected Albany, New York, to Lake Erie in Buffalo for the first time. When the Canal opened in 1825, building supplies and goods could be transported quickly and cheaply across New York State. Canal boats pulled by mules carried people and supplies across New York. The Erie Canal changed the way people moved goods in the 1800's.

Sample Summarizing Sentence:

The Erie Canal changed the way people moved goods in the 1800's.

Although modern day dental practice centers around prevention, many treatments or interventions are still needed. The majority of dental treatments are carried out to prevent or treat the two most common oral diseases which are dental caries (tooth decay) and periodontal disease (gum disease or pyorrhea). Common treatments involve the restoration of teeth as a treatment for dental caries (fillings), extraction or surgical removal of teeth which cannot be restored, scaling of teeth to treat periodontal problems and endodontic root canal treatment to treat abscessed teeth.

Sample summarizing sentence:

The majority of dental treatments are carried out to prevent or treat the two most common oral diseases which are tooth decay and gum disease.

First, the plane's engine caught on fire and continued to burn. When Amelia Earhart flew to a higher altitude trying to put out the fire, ice began to build up on the plane's wings. From start to finish, Amelia Earhart's first solo transatlantic flight was filled with near disasters. The weight of the ice on the plane's wings finally forced her to come down. Because the clouds were so low and thick during her descent, she almost crashed in the ocean. By the time Amelia finally spotted the coast of Ireland, she was so far off course that her plane was nearly out of fuel.

Sample summarizing Sentence:

From start to finish, Amelia Earhart's first solo transatlantic flight was filled with near disasters.

RULES FOR PARAPHRASING AS A WAY TO SUMMARIZE

- Delete information that doesn't matter
- Delete information that is repeated
- Substitute general terms for specific names
- Identify the main idea of each paragraph

SUMMARY FRAMES

- **Use frame questions to write a summary**
- **What is being defined or discussed?**
- **In which category does the item most likely belong?**
- **What characteristics separate the item from other things in the general category?**
- **What are different types of the item being discussed?**

EXAMPLE

■ Definition frame for onomatopoeia

■ What is being defined or discussed?

Answer: onomatopoeia

■ To which general category does this item belong?

Answer: Figure of speech

■ What characteristics separate the item from other things in the same category?

Answers: Doesn't have to rhyme; sounds like what it is; isn't a comparison; usually just a word or two

ONOMATOPOEIA

- **What are some different types or classes of the item being defined?**

Answers:

- ✓ **Can refer to images or noises or people**
- ✓ **Can be a noun or a verb**
- ✓ **Figure of speech**
- ✓ **poetic**

SUMMARY OF ONOMATOPOEIA

Onomatopoeia is a figure of speech that is poetic. It can be a noun or verb. Onomatopoeia usually is a word that refers to images or noises or people. The word “buzz” is an example of Onomatopoeia.

PARTNER EXERCISE

Using the summary frame as modeled, write a summary for success.