

Magnet Summaries

Purpose:

To help students see the important concepts in a large quantity of information, allowing them to summarize a text.

Materials: 4 to 5 3x5 cards for each student; text to read/ summarize

Procedure:

1. Explain the concept of “magnet words” to students (words that other details and bits of information are attracted to like a magnet, typically found in headings and titles or bold face print).
2. Have students read portion of reading assignment and then generate possible magnet words for that section of the text.
3. Provide students with 3x5 cards to write magnet word on. Have students provide details pertaining to magnet word. Write these on the board and have students write them on their cards.
4. Have students read the rest of the assigned text, recording magnet words as they find them.
5. Place students in groups and have them choose best magnet words and important details related to each magnet word. Have students write each magnet word and their important details on 3x5 cards. Students should now have four or five cards with magnet words and details on them.
6. Show how information on cards can form a sentence. Have students construct one sentence for each magnet word, writing the sentence on the back of the magnet word’s card.
7. Have students arrange sentences into the order they want for their summaries. Have them check to be sure that all important information is included and all excess information is removed.
8. Have students test their summaries by reading them aloud.

More information can be found on Wisconsin Literacy Education and Reading Network System’s website
<http://wilearns.state.wi.us/apps/default.asp?cid=221>