

Summarizing While Reading

To summarize while reading is to reduce the text to its main ideas which can greatly help you understand the author's message and the ideas that support that message. Summarizing is a great help when studying because it allows you to remember the important or main ideas.

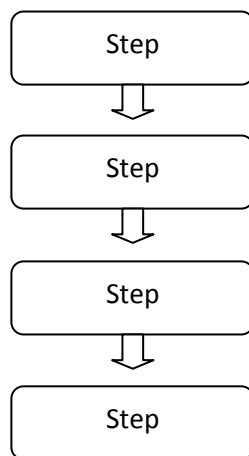
Steps for summarizing text:

- After reading a whole text identify the main idea in the author's message. Text features such as title, topic sentence and/or photos can help.
- Go back over paragraphs or sections to identify the key or essential ideas that support the main idea. This is more than just looking at things you find interesting. If present, heading can help you.
- Create a summary of the text using your own words. A graphic organizer can help you identify and organize the main idea as well as key concepts that support the main idea.

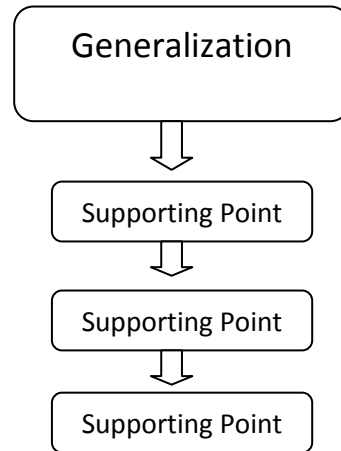
Here are a few graphic organizers you may find useful depending on the text pattern used by the author.

(Go back in your notes or text to review text patterns if you need to)

Sequence Text Pattern: As you summarize you ask yourself what are the events or steps that are described.



Generalization Text Pattern: As you summarize you ask yourself what is the main idea or opinion and what points support it.



Problem/Solution Text Pattern: As you summarize you ask yourself what is the problem and what solutions are proposed.

