

5-4-3-2-1

Reading and Learning Strategy

After Reading



5-4-3-2-1 & 3-2-1 Summarising

Purpose of teaching 5-4-3-2-1 summarising:

The goal of summarisation is to capture the essence of the text clearly and concisely. The ability to summarise has significant benefits for comprehending and ultimately retaining and recalling information. Teaching students to effectively summarise helps them learn to synthesise information, a higher-order thinking skill which includes analysing information and identifying key concepts. 5-4-3-2-1 can be used when first introducing the skill of summarising. The idea is to give students a chance to pick out some key ideas, tap into their prior knowledge, focus on information they find interesting and then pose a question that can reveal where their understanding is still uncertain.

Explicitly teaching summarising:

Step 1

Choose a textbook section and read it aloud demonstrating how you link what you are reading to something you know or have experienced. Speak out loud your 'Aha' moments when you come to something you find interesting and share any questions that pop into your head as you read. Finally, pick two ideas that are important and explain how you chose them.

Step 2

Choose another section of text and as a class work together to complete a 5-4-3-2-1 sheet or variations on this.

Step 3

In pairs have students use a selection of the activities that follow to develop summarising skills.

Step 4



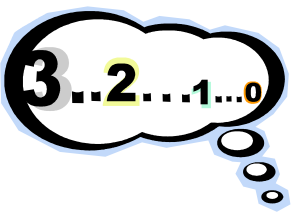


When students have mastered 5-4-3-2-1 introduce more complex strategies such as 'Get the Gist' or summarising graphic organisers and mind maps (see other NBSS handouts on these).

* This strategy can also be used at the end or beginning of a class as a mini lesson summary.

** *Students' summarising skills can be further developed by using other NBSS strategy resources e.g. Somebody Wanted But So, Summarising Maps, Get the Gist, Exit Slips.*





5-4-3-2-1

After reading a page or paragraph in your textbook complete the chart below to help you sum up what you have learned.

	<p>Keywords from the pages</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
	<p>Facts related to the main topic</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. 4.
	<p>New words</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3.
	<p>Facts you already know</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2.
	<p>Questions you still have</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.

4-3-2-1

After reading the text complete the chart below to help you sum up what you have learned.

	<p>Main ideas you read about</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. 4.
	<p>Key words linked to the main idea</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3.
	<p>Questions you want answered</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2.
	<p>Interesting thing you read</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.

3-2-1

To help you find the main idea complete the 3-2-1 exercise after reading a paragraph or page in your textbook.

	Important things I found out...
	Interesting things...
	Question I still have...

1-2-3-4 Summary

After reading a page or paragraph in your textbook complete the chart below to help you sum up what you have learned.

1	What is the big idea?
2	What important details support the big idea?
3	What is a connection you made?
4	What questions do you have about the big idea?

1-2-3-4-5 Summary Pyramid

After reading or listening think of words you can use to summarise what you learned.

One word to describe the topic.

Two words to describe subheadings of the topic.

Three words to describe what you already knew about the topic.

Four words to describe what you learned.

Five words to describe other knowledge that connects or links to this new knowledge and information.

One sentence that summarises the most important information...

5-4-3-2-1

When you finish reading the paragraph or page write down your 5-4-3-2-1 points to help you sum up the main ideas and to figure out anything you don't totally understand.

5 Important pieces of information					
4 Keywords					
3 Questions you have					
2 Facts you knew already					
1 Interesting idea you found out					



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