

Lesson Plan Outline

Objective: Students will be able to objectively summarize a *text by noting the main points of various sections of the text and making connections between those points to form a comprehensive summary.

The instructor will first break the text into sections and list those sections on a worksheet that will be handed to every student. For example, the paragraphs can be numbered and the instructor will chunk the text via paragraphs 1-5, 5-10, etc. depending on the length of the text used. For videos and podcasts the instructor will mark the sections in minutes.

The worksheet will contain a space under each section that asks a leading question. These questions may vary depending on the medium, however, the objective is to ask the student what the main point of that section of the work is.

Some examples:

“What point was the author trying to make here?”

“What was the most important thing that the author wanted his audience to learn from this section?”

During the lesson the instructor can model this method for the class, thinking out loud and answering the questions with the class for the first few sections. Then the class will fill out the remainder of the worksheet themselves.

Once the class has a worksheet filled with main points from various sections, they will compare those sections to get a clearer picture of the connections between the points, and how they make meaning for the entire text.

The end result will be students thinking about how each section contributes to the meaning of the text as a whole. In that way students will be responsible for determining which details are most important in an effort to succinctly summarize the main point of the film.

Our tool is simple, but it helps students to distinguish main ideas from smaller details in order to understand how to write an accurate summary of a complicated text.

*Our tool can be used with various texts, including films, podcasts, fiction, or non-fiction.