

Magnet Summary Directions (many variations!)

1. After assigning a passage to be read, help students determine keywords from the passage. Keywords relate directly to the concept being taught.
2. Explain to students that these keywords are like magnets in that they attract information that is important to the topic.
3. Next, ask students to recall details from the passage that are connected to the magnet words. Both the word and the details should be recorded on a 3 x 5 index card.
4. After students have recorded their magnet words and supporting details on cards, show them how the information can be developed into a short summary. Strive to have students develop a one-sentence summary whenever possible.
5. Once all the cards have been summarized, ask students to arrange their sentences in logical order to develop a coherent summary. Remind students that they may have to edit sentences so their summaries will flow smoothly.

The Magnet Summaries strategy provides many advantages as an after reading strategy. While it gives students practice in expressing key concepts in their own words, its greatest value lies in providing a logical and simple procedure for helping students determine relevant and irrelevant details as they synthesize the information. While this strategy appears simple, its success depends on teacher modeling to guide students through the process before they produce Magnet Summaries independently.

Magnet Summary Example for Math

KEYWORDS

closed

simple

plane figure

rectangle

MAGNET WORD **Polygon**

KEYWORDS

Three or more segments

triangle

hexagon

SUMMARY:

A polygon is a simple, closed, plane figure that made up of three or more line segments. Some examples are a rectangle, a triangle and a hexagon.