

Purpose

Summary frames are a series of questions that emphasize the important elements within a text pattern. Students answer the questions, then write summaries based on their responses.

Procedure

1. Students need to be aware of and able to identify the patterns commonly used in texts.
2. Once students have read the text passage and identified the pattern that most closely matches, they use the information from the text to answer the questions for that pattern. Help students to remember that in most summaries, they can replace a list of specifics with a single general term. For example, they can replace “daisies, roses, irises, and pansies” with the general term “flowers.”
3. After answering the questions, students put away the text and use their responses to write a summary of the text.

Summary Frames for the Content Areas

Narrative Text Frame

In narrative text, the author's purpose is to tell a story or give an account of a sequence of events. It usually contains the following elements:

Characters	Setting	Plot:
Theme	Conflict:	Rising Action
Dialogue	Internal	Climax
	External	Falling Action
		Resolution/Denouement

Narrative Frame Questions:

1. Who are the main characters, and what distinguishes them from others?
2. When and where did the story take place? What were the circumstances?
3. What prompted the action in the story?
4. How did the characters express their feelings?
5. What did the main characters decide to do? Did they set a goal, and, if so, what was it?
6. How did the main characters try to accomplish their goal(s)?
7. What were the consequences?

The Generalization, Principle, or Opinion Frame

The purpose of the Generalization, Principle, or Opinion pattern is to support a claim. It contains the following elements:

- Evidence: information that leads to a claim
- Claim: the assertion that something is true—the claim that is the focal point of the argument
- Support: examples or explanations for the claim
- Qualifier: a restriction on the claim or evidence for the claim

Generalization, Principle, or Opinion Frame Questions:

1. What information is presented that leads to the claim?
2. What is the basic statement or claim that is the focus of the information?
3. What examples, facts, or other evidence are presented to support this claim?
4. What concessions are made about the claim?

The Concept Definition Frame

The purpose of this pattern is to define a concept by using description and examples.

Concept Definition Frame Questions:

1. What concept is being defined?
2. To which general category does the item belong?
3. What are the attributes or characteristics of this concept?
4. What examples are given to illustrate this concept?

Comparison and Contrast Frame

The purpose of this pattern is to draw similarities and differences between items, concepts, or ideas.

Comparison and Contrast Frame Questions:

1. What is being compared?
2. What are the characteristics that form the basis of the comparison?
3. What do these items have in common?
4. How are they different?
5. What conclusions does the author draw about the comparison?

The Problem/Solution Frame

Problem/Solution Frames introduce a problem and then identify one or more solutions to the problem.

- Problem: A statement of something that has happened or might happen that is problematic (may cause problems)
- Solution: A description of one possible solution
- Solution: A statement of another possible solution
- Solution: A statement of another possible solution
- Solution: Identification of the solution with the greatest chance of success

Problem/Solution Frame Questions:

1. What is the problem?
2. What is a possible solution?
3. What is another possible solution?
4. Which solution has the best chance of succeeding?

Episode/Chronological Frame

The Episode and Chronological Frames describe an event or events in the order in which they occur.

Episode/Chronological Frame Questions:

1. What event or sequence of events is being described?
2. Who are the people who play a role in this event(s)?
3. Where does the event(s) occur?
4. In what order do the major incidences occur?
5. What caused this event and what happens as a result of it?

Process/Cause and Effect Frame

In this pattern, the author details an outcome and describes what causes it or describes the steps leading to a specific product.

Process/Cause and Effect Frame Questions:

1. What is the process or topic being explained?
2. What are the steps in the process or causal events that occur?
3. What is the outcome of the process or causal events?