

GIST Summaries: Generating Interactions between Schemata and Text

GIST (Generating Interactions between Schemata and Text) is a comprehension strategy that is used both during reading and after reading. It is one approach to having students summarize the information in a text. Students pare down large amounts of text to create GIST summaries that are 20 words or less. The strategy incorporates both reading and writing.

How to implement the strategy:

1. Select a short piece of text that is related to the unit of study that can be divided into four or five sections.
2. Read the text and divide it into sections that are logical spots for students to stop and summarize what they have read.
3. Mark the end of each section with the word STOP.
4. Introduce and distribute the text by connecting it with students' prior knowledge.
5. Identify key vocabulary words the students need to know in order to understand the text.
6. Explain the GIST strategy by modeling it for the students.
 - a. Read the first portion of the text selection aloud and stop at the appropriate spot while they follow along.
 - b. Engage the students in a class discussion and have them identify key ideas in the text selection.
 - c. Record their ideas on chart paper or the white board.
 - d. Use the words and key ideas shared by the students to craft a GIST statement.
 - e. Have the students record the summarizing statement in their notebooks.
7. Have students read the remaining passages and write a GIST statement for each section.
8. Have the students combine the GIST statements for each section of the text selection into a concise summary of the material

Additional resources:

- Adapted from: Frey, Nancy, and Douglas Fisher, and Ted Hernandez. "What's the Gist? Summary Writing for Struggling Adolescent Writers." *Voices from the Middle* 11.2 (2003): 43-49.
<http://www.fisherandfrey.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/01/vm-gist.pdf>
- Lesson Plan for a Mathematics Class GIST,
http://www.lpb.org/education/classroom/itv/litlearn/lessons/lssn_2gist.pdf
- Literacy and Learning in the Content Areas, Handbook II, GIST
http://www.litandlearn.lpb.org/strategies/strat_2gist.pdf

- GIST Statement: Adapted from: Get the Gist: A Summarizing Strategy for Any Content Area. Read, Write, Think. International Reading Association.
<http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/gist-summarizing-strategy-content-290.html>

GIST Summaries

1. Read the text selection and highlight key words or phrases that are important.
2. Write a maximum of twenty key words from the text selection that you highlighted.
3. Create a GIST summarizing statement for the text selection using the twenty key words you highlighted.
4. Share your GIST statement with your table group.
5. Listen while your group members take turns sharing their GIST statements.
6. Identify the twenty key words your group agrees are the most important.
7. Use the group list to create a GIST summarizing statement for the text selection.
8. Write the GIST on a sentence strip and post to the wall.

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