

News Flash

A During Reading Strategy

News Flash is a strategy that is used during reading to summarize important ideas. The summary, in sentence form, must be exactly 20 words in length. Students read several paragraphs and stop to summarize what they have read in twenty words. Then they read several more paragraphs and revise their summary to incorporate additional important ideas. This strategy allows students to focus on key information and evaluate the relative importance of the various points. Students also have a clear purpose and enhanced motivation for reading.

Before Reading

- Select an article or text that is suitable for the whole class.
- Tell students that they will be reading just a short section of the piece and then summarizing the important ideas. Suggest that the group write the summary so that it sounds like a “news flash” on television.

During Reading

- To start, have students read a short segment of the piece – no more than three or four paragraphs.
- After they have had ample time to discuss the important facts, ask a volunteer to try to summarize the article in sentence form. As the student is talking, write the summary on the 20 lines – one word per line. Allow students opportunities to change words and edit ideas. Using the chalk or dry-erase board will give you the flexibility to revise easily.
- After students are satisfied with the summary, have them read several more paragraphs. The information from these paragraphs must now be incorporated into the existing 20-word summary. Again, have students discuss the important ideas as you jot them on the board. Ask for a volunteer to revise the existing summary by incorporating the new ideas.
- After the summary has been revised several times, students should finish reading the rest of the article and complete one last summary.

