

SOS SPOTLIGHT ON STRATEGIES

Simple instructional strategies that incorporate digital media in meaningful, effective, and practical ways.

ABC summary

Preparation time: Low

Ages: Primary & Secondary

Media type used: Video



Summarising requires students to distill information in a concise, synthesised form and focus on the important points presented in a text (Marzano, 2001). This strategy involves students sharing the responsibility for summarising content through the creation of an ABC list of learning.



Materials: video segment, paper, pen/pencil

1. Assign each student a letter of the alphabet.
2. Explain to students that they will watch a video and will need to summarise something learned using the assigned letter to begin their sentence.
3. The first time the video is played, students shouldn't take notes. This will allow them to focus on the key concepts.
4. Replay the video a second time, pausing frequently to allow students time to take notes.
5. Provide students a few minutes to use their notes to craft their summary statements. Scaffold by allowing them to work in small groups or pairs.
6. Beginning with the letter A have students share with the entire class their summarising statement.



This strategy allows students to write statements about the key concepts, using evidence found in media. By assigning a variety of letters, students will need to think more creatively about their response, providing a more unique approach to their summary.

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- Compile individual statements into a book or poster.
- Display list in class, allowing other students to add supporting details throughout the unit of study.

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