

GIST

The GIST procedure (Generating Interactions between Schemata and Text) was developed by Cunningham (1982). It is a comprehension strategy that is used both during reading and after reading. It is one approach to summarizing a text. When using GIST, students create summaries that are 20 words or less for increasingly large amounts of text.

PROCEDURE

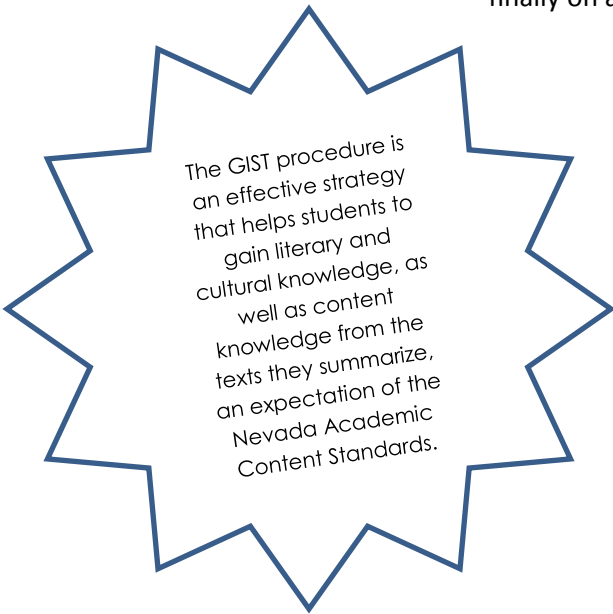
1. Read the first paragraph/section of the assigned reading. The size of the section will depend upon the grade level and size of the complete text.
2. Write a 20 word summary that describes the main idea in that section.
3. Read the second paragraph/section of the assigned reading.
4. Write a 20 word summary that combines the material in the first gist statement and the new material.
5. Continue this procedure until a 20 word summary is created for the entire reading.

TIPS & SUGGESTIONS

*GIST can be used with both expository and narrative text.

*Do not use this strategy with more than 3 paragraphs/sections.

*Cunningham suggests that when using GIST, it is best to conduct it first as a whole class, then in small groups, and finally on an individual basis, as needed.



The GIST procedure is an effective strategy that helps students to gain literary and cultural knowledge, as well as content knowledge from the texts they summarize, an expectation of the Nevada Academic Content Standards.

ADAPTATIONS

- Write a summary of 20 words or less for each paragraph/section. Then combine those summaries into one 40 to 50 word summary at the end.
- Read the first paragraph/section and write a 20 word summary. Read the second paragraph/section and write a 20 word summary. Combine the two 20 word summaries into a new 20 word summary.