

Collaborative Summarizing

This group writing structure teaches students how to create powerful summaries through collaboration and consensus negotiation.

Teacher Preparation:

1. Select a passage for students to read or some other form of information input.
2. Make copies of the organizers (3-9-2 and 3-9-3) for each student.

Lesson Plan:

1. Assign students the passage to read (or other information to receive) and distribute copies of the graphic organizer for analyzing the main idea.
2. Have the students list, individually, the three to six most important ideas from the material.
3. Instruct students to pair up and review the rules for consensus negotiation:
 - Avoid win-lose situations.
 - Avoid quick and simple solutions.
 - Make sure all positions use evidence and are logical.
4. Have partners create a negotiated list that reflects their combined agreement on the three to six most important ideas.
5. Have each pair meet with another pair. Now have the four students renegotiate their lists and order the list so that it makes sense as a summary.
6. Each group should prepare a collaborative summary.
7. Have groups pair up again. Have each group of four share its summary with the other groups and then, together, have all eight students develop a set of criteria for powerful summaries.
8. Instruct the students to use these criteria throughout the year to develop summaries.

Adapted from a workshop conducted by Daniel R. Moirao for the Academically Gifted Department of the Wake County Public School System in April, 2006

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My Ideas	My Partner's Ideas
Our Ideas	

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Our Group's Final Ideas

Our Group's Summary