



Step Up to Writing Strategy Spotlight

I-V-F Summary Sentence and Summary Paragraph

Teaching students to write a summary sentence or paragraph requires the teaching of several steps. For the summary sentence, typically used to summarize a short passage, students need to know just three basic pieces of information.

I	V	F
Identify (ex. who wrote the piece, the source of the information)	Verb (ex. explains, illustrates, argues, defends, compares)	Finish the Thought (ex. what was explained)
"Jack's Big Day" by John Brown	details	a little boy's perfect birthday party.
Roman's theory of _____	explains	the variables of _____ and _____.

The IVF paragraph summary is typically used to summarize a longer passage (essay, section of a book, or chapter) and begins with the same IVF sentence, followed by a fact outline. Sentences are then composed for each of the outline points to create a paragraph. Unlike a typical Step Up expository paragraph, the last sentence is not a conclusion sentence.

I-V-F Summary Paragraph Example:

I	V	F
Book about Pandas	teaches	why pandas are endangered.

"Summarizing is a critical skill for all students to master."

Fact Outline:

- Running out of bamboo
- Only live in China where bamboo grows
- Many trees cut down
- Poachers
- Our job to help

Paragraph:

The book about pandas teaches us why pandas are endangered. Pandas eat a lot of bamboo but there is not enough. Pandas only live in China because that is where bamboo grows. Trees are getting cut down by the people. Animal poachers kill pandas. We need to work together to save the pandas.