



# Literacy at Hartford Public High School

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## Expository Text (Nonfiction)

Provide students with a selection from a content area text. Write the topic, subtopics, and details.

Main idea/Topic \_\_\_\_\_

Subtopic \_\_\_\_\_

Detail 1  
\_\_\_\_\_

Detail 2  
\_\_\_\_\_

Subtopic \_\_\_\_\_

Detail 1  
\_\_\_\_\_

Detail 2  
\_\_\_\_\_

Subtopic \_\_\_\_\_

Detail 1  
\_\_\_\_\_

Detail 2  
\_\_\_\_\_

**CONNECT** the statements generated from the outline above, using paragraph form.

### Teaching Tips

- You may have students work together to organize/write a short summary paragraph.
- Share and critique summaries. Remember, summaries should include the most important main ideas and details.
- If students have difficulty, provide summaries that are partially filled in. Students will complete missing details.

## Strategy for Locating Answers

**Model** the following strategy using a passage from the current text.

1. **READ** the passage carefully. (It is often a good idea to read the questions before reading the text.)
2. **READ** (or re-read) the question. Determine the question type (who, what, when, where, why/how).

Determine the key words, or topic, of the question. The subject of the question will usually be an important noun.

Repeat the key word(s) you are to remember and find.

3. **REREAD** the passage to skim for the key words. Content area questions usually closely follow the structure of the text. (*Model how to estimate question/answer locations within the materials.*)

The first third of the questions are usually found within the first third of the printed material.

The second third of the questions are usually found within the second third of the content, etc.

4. Pay close attention to **SUBTITLES**. **SUBTITLES** may closely match many of the key words within a question.
5. **POINT** to the answer.
6. **WRITE** the answer. **Remember:** repeat key words from the question in your response.

By modeling these two strategies—summarizing paragraphs and locating answers—for our students, we give them two powerful tools for accessing information and using it to their advantage in their class work and on tests.