Graphic Organizer Samples for Summarizing

Numerous graphic organizers are available online. However, no single graphic organizer will meet the needs of every student, nor be appropriate for every type of text. Through just-in-time formative assessment, teachers can observe where students may be having difficulty and subsequently design or adapt a graphic organizer to meet specific student needs. The following descriptions can serve as a starting point for considering how to support students with the skill of summarizing.

Students who have difficulty integrating setting, characters and events from a narrative might benefit from a graphic organizer that reminds them to include these elements.

Students who include too many events or not enough events might benefit from a graphic organizer that specifies an arbitrary number of events, or a range of events. This should be used cautiously, though, so as to not suggest that a summary always has ____ number of events, or that a higher number of events = a higher ‘score’.

Students who have difficulty sequencing events could use sticky notes to record the events, making it easier to move the events into an appropriate order prior to writing or orally telling their summary.

Students who have difficulty transitioning between events could benefit from a wordwall of transition terms, and a graphic organizer where they are able to consider the transitions as well as the events.

Don’t worry about a fancy presentation! The goal is to help students with the right support at the right time to help them do their best work.