

Outlining and Summarizing Strategies

Strategy 1: Somebody Wanted But So (SWBS) is a graphic organizer used to identify key elements in any type of text. Teachers should teach the strategy with a simple example that all students know and understand. Students may then use the SWBS framework to summarize text by identifying key elements and understanding the structure. It can also be used to help students plan their own writing.

Somebody	Wanted	But	So
Cinderella	To go to the ball	She didn't have a dress or carriage.	Her fairy godmother made her a dress and carriage.
Martin Luther King, Jr.	To achieve equality and civil rights for all people	He faced opposition and discrimination from those who supported segregation.	He led peaceful protests and gave inspiring speeches that contributed to the Civil Rights Movement.

Source: Adapted from Fitzell, S. G. (2011). RTI strategies for secondary teachers. Corwin Press.

Strategy 2: Summary frames help students glean and organize information from a text. They involve sets of questions the teacher provides to students, as shown in the following figure. After students find the answers to the questions, they put the information together into a paragraph. There are several models of summary frames: narrative frame, definition frame, argumentation frame, problem and solution frame, and conversation frame. This is an example of a problem and solution frame.

What is the problem?	What is a possible solution?	What is another possible solution?	Which has the best chance of succeeding?

Source: Adapted from Marzano, R. J., Pickering, D. J., & Pollock, J. E. (2001). Classroom instruction that works: Research-based strategies for increasing student achievement. ASCD.