

SPOTLIGHT ON STRATEGIES

A variety of simple instructional strategies that incorporate the use of digital media in meaningful, effective, and practical ways.

6-WORD STORIES



BACKGROUND

According to [Reading Rocket](#), “Summarizing teaches students how to discern the most important ideas in a text, how to ignore irrelevant information, and how to integrate the central ideas in a meaningful way. Teaching students to summarize improves their memory for what is read.” By narrowing the number of words allowed, we require students to focus on the most important ideas and concepts of the content being shared.

EXAMPLE

- * Display the image “[Family on Bike Trail](#)” ([CDN Subscriber](#)).
 - * Have students discuss what they see, guess what happened right before the image was taken, and predict what will happen next.
 - * Explain to students that they need to individually summarize the photo in 6 words or less.
 - * Have students share their summaries. Discuss similarities and differences.
- * **Pro Tip:** Have students bring in their own pictures or draw images that represent the current topics being covered in class and have classmates create 6-word stories. Using these images, have students write creative stories with the 6 word caption as the title. Use [iPiccy.com](#) to create a collage or add captions on photos.

CHALLENGE

- * Select a video, image, or reading passage that corresponds with your current curriculum.
- * Have students discuss what they see, guess what happened right before the image was taken, and predict what will happen next.
- * Explain to students that they need to individually summarize the photo in 6 words or less.
- * Have students share their summaries. Discuss similarities and differences.