

## Key Concept Synthesis

- ✓ *Monitoring* comprehension
- ✓ *Connecting* old and new understandings

### Purpose

Struggling readers often have difficulty focusing on the key concepts within a text. Using the Key Concept Synthesis strategy helps students identify the important ideas as they read, use their own words to express the ideas, then explain why the ideas are important and make connections to other ideas.

### Procedure

1. To model the strategy, choose a short passage of text to share with students and provide copies of the handout to guide students as they learn the strategy. Guide students through each step of the process, then allow them to try it on their own.
2. Explain to students that they will need to use textual clues to determine the important ideas in the reading passage.
  - Preview the passage and look for headings, subtitles, bolded words or phrases, and graphics that give a clue as to important topics within the reading.
  - While reading, look for topic sentences within each paragraph. Tell students that often the topic sentence can be found at the beginning of the paragraph, but as text gets more sophisticated, topic sentences can be found anywhere within the paragraph.
  - Examine the summary statements at the end of chapter sections or at the end of the chapter.
3. Students write down the main ideas, then paraphrase the ideas from the text, using their own words.
4. Finally, students explain why they think the idea is important and note connections to other ideas from that reading selection, or from previous learning.

**Form: Key Concept Synthesis**

Use the table to identify the most important concepts or ideas within the text. Express the ideas using single words or phrases. Explain the concept using your own words in the middle column. Explain why the concept is important and make connections to other ideas in that last column. Think of it this way: if you had to explain the reading to someone who hadn't read it, which ideas would be most important and how would you explain these ideas?

Key Ideas or Concepts (write down the page number)	Put the concept or idea in your own words	Explain why the concept is important and make connections to other concepts
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		