Read When you tell your friends about a soccer game, you don’t want to bore them with every detail. Instead, you tell only the most important events, leaving out the parts that aren’t necessary for understanding what happened.

Similarly, when you summarize a text, you should use your own words to tell a short but complete version of that text. Include only the main idea (the big idea) and the key details that say more about the main idea.

Read the passage below. Identify what the passage is about.
Think  Consider what you’ve learned so far about summarizing a text. In the main idea organizer below, add two key details from the passage “Let’s Play Futebol!” Then use the organizer to complete the summary of the passage.

Main Idea
Soccer is the most popular sport in Brazil.

First Key Detail
The Brazilian national soccer team is a world champion.

Second Key Detail

Third Key Detail

Summary: Soccer is the most popular sport in Brazil.

Talk  Share your main idea organizer and summary with a partner.

- What relationships do you see between your organizers and summaries?
- Do your second and third key details develop the main idea? How do you know?
- Could any key details in the organizer be stated differently?

Academic Talk
Use these words and phrases to talk about the text.

- main idea
- key detail
- summarize
In September 1925, a bus in Mexico City was in a terrible accident. One passenger, an 18-year-old woman, was hurt so badly that she had to stay in bed for three months. Looking for a task to occupy her mind, she decided to paint pictures. This is how Frida Kahlo, one of the most famous Mexican artists of the 20th century, began her career.

Kahlo produced more than 150 paintings during her life. Of those, 55 were self-portraits, for which she is best known. In the paintings, Kahlo has brown skin, black hair, thick eyebrows, and a faint mustache. She often wears brightly colored traditional Mexican blouses and skirts. She usually gazes confidently at the viewer. Kahlo explained, “I paint myself because I am so often alone and because I am the subject I know best.”

For Kahlo, a self-portrait was a way to communicate ideas. For example, Kahlo’s injuries from the bus accident left her in pain all her life. So, some of her self-portraits express this discomfort. Others depict events in her life. For instance, in the early 1930s, Kahlo lived in the United States. She was homesick, so she painted herself standing between Mexican flowers and buildings on one side and American factories and skyscrapers on the other. The painting showed how she felt: torn between where she was living and where she wanted to be. Not all of Kahlo’s self-portraits have such a clear message. Some are like painted dreams, with Kahlo before tropical plants and surrounded by spider monkeys, parrots, and cats. For Kahlo, a self-portrait could express whatever she wanted.

Frida Kahlo died in 1954. During her life, she had traveled the world, impressed famous artists, and taught painting to college students in Mexico. As she told her students, “To paint is the most terrific thing that there is, but to do it well is very difficult.” Lovers of her art believe that Frida Kahlo painted very well, indeed.
Explore

What is most important to know about Frida Kahlo and her art?

Think

1. Complete the main idea organizer below. Include three key details that you underlined in the passage.

Main Idea

First Key Detail

Second Key Detail

Third Key Detail

Talk

2. Share your organizers. Do you agree about the main idea of the passage? What about the key details? Make any changes to your organizers that will help you write an accurate and complete summary.

Write

3. Short Response  Summarize what you learned about Frida Kahlo and her art. Include key details from the text in your summary. Use the space provided on page 30 to write your answer.

HINT Link key details to the main idea by using phrases such as “for example” and “for instance.”
1 Cesar Estrada Chavez was an important labor leader. He fought for the rights of migrant farm workers in the United States. Chavez knew firsthand of the many hardships farm workers faced. When Chavez was a young boy, his family lost their farm during the Great Depression. The Chavez family became migrant workers, toiling side by side for long hours in the fields. At night, they slept in a tent or outside. Like other migrant workers, they moved from farm to farm, following the harvest seasons of the vineyards and fruit orchards in California.

2 In 1962, Chavez founded the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA) to fight for *La Causa*—the cause. By organizing farm workers into a union, Chavez hoped to increase their wages. He also hoped to improve working conditions and safety for farm workers. Chavez strongly believed that this cause could be achieved. In fact, his motto was “Yes, it can be done!”

3 Chavez believed in bringing about change in nonviolent ways. He fasted, or went without eating, to bring attention to the poor treatment of farm workers. He organized strikes and marches. He also organized boycotts, which urged people to stop buying certain products. Two of Chavez’s most effective boycotts were against grapes and lettuce. When people stopped buying grapes and lettuce, the boycotts put economic pressure on the growers. These boycotts also brought attention to the plight of migrant farm workers. Because of Chavez’s dedicated efforts, migrant farm workers received better pay and working conditions.
Think  Use what you learned from reading the biography to respond to the following questions.

1 Which statement is most important to include in a summary of the passage “Cesar Chavez”?
   A Like other migrant workers, Chavez moved from farm to farm.
   B The Chavez family often slept in a tent or outdoors at night.
   C “Yes, it can be done!” was Chavez’s motto.
   D Chavez brought about change in nonviolent ways.

2 Select the two sentences that should be included in a summary of paragraph 1.
   A Chavez was an important labor leader.
   B Chavez had a difficult childhood.
   C As a boy, Chavez often slept in a tent or outside.
   D The Chavez family followed the harvest seasons in California.
   E Chavez fought for the rights of farm workers.
   F Chavez worked hard after his family lost their farm.

3 Which is most important to put in a summary of how Chavez helped others?
   A “… his family lost their farm. . . .”
   B “… they moved from farm to farm. . . .”
   C “… strongly believed that this cause could be achieved.”
   D “… migrant farm workers received better pay. . . .”

Talk

4 What is the main idea of the passage? What key details develop that main idea? Use the organizer on page 31 to gather your information.

Write

5 Short Response  Summarize the passage. Include key details from your organizer in your summary. Use the space provided on page 31 to write your answer.

A summary of a biography includes only key details of a person’s life. To decide which details to use, choose the ones that develop the main idea of the biography.
Write Use the space below to write your answer to the question on page 27.

A Portrait of FRIDA KAHLO

3 Short Response Summarize what you learned about Frida Kahlo and her art. Include key details from the text in your summary.

Check Your Writing

☐ Did you read the prompt carefully?
☐ Did you put the prompt in your own words?
☐ Did you use the best evidence from the text to support your ideas?
☐ Are your ideas clearly organized?
☐ Did you write in clear and complete sentences?
☐ Did you check your spelling and punctuation?

Don’t forget to check your writing.
Use the main idea organizer below to organize your ideas and evidence.

Main Idea

First Key Detail

Second Key Detail

Third Key Detail

Write Use the space below to write your answer to the question on page 29.

Short Response Summarize the passage. Include key details from your organizer in your summary.
Why should young people know about Cesar E. Chavez?

Fernando Chavez, a 13-year-old grandson of Cesar E. Chavez, responded, “Children should know what my grandfather did so they will be inspired to help others. My Tata (grandfather) helped lots of families. Just as others gave food to help his family, my grandfather gave away food and clothing to help others. He talked to people about what to do so they could help themselves. I hope that I, too, can help those in need. When I see families living in campers and trucks, I feel so sad. I hope that migrant families can live a normal life, in a normal house.”
2 **Q** What do you remember about your grandfather?

**A** “I had a birthday, then just three days after, Grandfather died. Many, many people came to pray and give final thanks for all that he had done for them. My dad reminds me that on that day, I took my sandwich and went to eat it by his graveside; my last moments with Tata. My family and I really miss him, especially at Christmastime. Tata loved being with his (33) grandchildren. My grandfather also loved his dogs. He had two German shepherds, guard dogs, called Huelga (the Spanish word for “strike”) and Boycott, and later, another named Oso. They are buried near him.”

3 **Q** What stories do you remember about Cesar E. Chavez?

**A** “I remember stories about my grandfather’s courage and bravery. He gave a lot of speeches, and he helped a lot of people. There were stories about hard work in the fields, and terrible things like farmers with guns, people trying to tear the Union apart, and racism—people yelling names. I’m grateful that I don’t have to go through that. These stories make me want to stand up and do something when I am older and braver. I will stand up! But I have also learned from my grandfather that the best way to solve a problem is to talk it out. These stories mean a lot to me, and I’m inspired to help those who go through tough times. And there are still problems—people with no place to live, boycotts, and problems with contracts between farmers and workers.”
4. **Q** What is it like to be the grandson of a famous person, and the son of a father who continues to work for “the cause”?

**A** “It feels good, and I’m proud that my grandfather is in history books. But it puts a lot of pressure on me—I can’t put a bad name on my grandfather or my family. I know that I need to stay under control.”

**About Fernando Chavez**

Fernando Chavez turned 13 years old in 2001. With his two brothers and one sister, he lives with his family in La Paz, a small community near Bakersfield, California. His father, Paul F. Chavez, was the sixth of the eight children of Cesar and Helen Chavez.

The author of this interview thinks that “staying under control” is good advice for anyone. She also learned that Fernando has many traits of his courageous grandfather—respect, responsibility, and caring.
Think  Use what you learned from reading the interview to respond to the following questions.

1 Which sentence is the **best** summary of why Fernando Chavez thinks young people should know about Cesar Chavez?
   - A  Young people should know about Cesar Chavez because he was Fernando’s grandfather.
   - B  Young people should know about Cesar Chavez so that they can be inspired to help others like he did.
   - C  Young people should know about Cesar Chavez because he organized a union for farm workers.
   - D  Young people should know about Cesar Chavez because it makes Fernando sad to see migrant families without homes.

2 Select the **two** sentences that should be included in a summary of Fernando’s answer to the second interview question.
   - A  Fernando’s grandfather named his dogs Strike and Boycott.
   - B  When Fernando’s grandfather died, many people came to give thanks for all that he had done for them.
   - C  Fernando and his family miss Tata, especially at Christmas.
   - D  Fernando’s grandfather had two guard dogs that are buried near his grave.
   - E  Tata had thirty-three grandchildren, and he loved all of them.
   - F  Tata died just three days after Fernando’s birthday.

3 Which statement **best** summarizes Fernando’s answer to the third interview question?
   - A  Chavez was brave.
   - B  Chavez gave speeches.
   - C  Chavez worked in the fields.
   - D  Chavez held boycotts.
This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then answer Part B.

**Part A**

Which statement best summarizes the main idea of the interview?

A. Fernando is the grandson of Cesar Chavez, a famous leader in the labor movement.

B. Fernando remembers his last moments with his Tata at the side of his grave.

C. Fernando feels very sad because many migrant workers do not live in regular houses but in campers and trucks.

D. Fernando wants to help others when he grows up because stories about his grandfather have inspired him.

**Part B**

Which detail from the text best supports your answer to Part A?

A. “I’m grateful that I don’t have to go through that.”

B. “These stories make me want to stand up and do something when I am older and braver.”

C. “When I see families living in campers and trucks, I feel so sad.”

D. “My family and I really miss him, especially at Christmastime.”

5. Read the sentence from paragraph 3.

And there are still problems—people with no place to live, boycotts, and problems with contracts between farmers and workers.

What does the prefix con- in the word contracts mean?

A. not

B. together

C. before

D. into
Learning Target

In this lesson, you summarized texts by identifying their main ideas and key details. Explain how summarizing is a skill you can use to better understand other informational texts you read.

6 Short Response  Summarize Fernando’s message about his grandfather, Cesar E. Chavez. Use details from the text to support your summary.