

End a Discussion with a Summary

A final speaker sums up the shared idea and names one point the group still needs to test.

5 min preparation | Science, Maths and Humanities

Before the lesson

Choose a short source and define how much meaning the summary must retain.

Teach it in four steps

1. A final speaker sums up the shared idea and names one point the group still needs to test.
2. Select essential relationships and exclude illustrative detail.
3. Express the meaning in new wording without distorting the source.
4. Check the summary against the whole passage.

Worked example: End a Discussion with a Summary

A paragraph gives several examples of evaporation. A useful summary states that liquid can become gas at its surface below boiling temperature, rather than listing the puddle and wet-shirt examples.

Teacher prompt: "Show the relationship and explain the choice you made."

Check understanding

Ask whether the summary retains the central relationship when the examples are removed.

Fade the support

Reduce the summary frame and ask learners to justify what they omitted.

Adapt it across subjects

Humanities: summarise a source position. Maths: summarise the logic of a method without copying every calculation.

Adjust the language support

A1-A2 access: keep the subject goal; use visuals, a small word bank, pointing or drawing and partner rehearsal. Use a home language to establish meaning where helpful.

B1-B2 extension: ask for fuller explanations, precise subject vocabulary and qualifications. Reduce sentence openings when learners can organise the response independently.

These are starting points, not placement rules. Judge support from the learner's response to this task; proficiency can differ across skills.