Key Terminology

**Summarizing:** This strategy involves representing, in a few sentences and in your own words, the most important ideas of a longer passage or selection.

* **Identifying important information (main idea):** This skill requires one to distinguish the core concepts in a selection (that will be included in the summary) from the supporting or minor information ( that will not be included in the summary).
* **Distinguishing between a topic and a main idea:** A topic is the general subject dealt with in a text or discussion. A main idea is the important thought (implied or expressed) that the author is conveying about the topic.
* **Identifying and generalizing important information and ideas (concepts), explicit and implicit:** A generalization is a broad statement that describes the relationship of two or more concepts (or main ideas).
* **Sequencing events and ideas:** Constructing summaries requires readers to track, order, and restate events described in the material being read.
* **Identifying genre:** Genres are categories or classifications of text formed by sets of conventions.
* **Identifying type of text structure:** How is the information organized? Authors make decisions about how to present information to readers depending on the type of text. Some structures are more representative of specific genres (fiction and nonfiction) and may use specific features (bold headings) to support the text structure.
* **Categorizing and classifying using text information and background knowledge:** This skill requires one to sort and organize information (especially in longer selections).
* **Paraphrasing:** Paraphrasing is restating or explaining ideas in your own words while retaining the meaning and ideas in the original selection.
* **Questioning:** Questions that support the strategy summarizing include: *How does this paragraph relate to the text information read so far? Which graphic organizer would I use to present the information in this selection? What essential points is the author making?*
* **Synthesizing information and concepts within text:** Synthesizing is putting parts (ideas) together into a unified whole.