

Telegram

ThinkSheet for another way to Synthesize Along the Way

Some items require checking off; other items require a written response.

Step	Learning Activities	
1	<p>BEFORE: Preview the text and place <u>sticky tabs</u> at all the spots where you plan to note what you just learned. How did you decide where to put the sticky tabs? _____</p> <p>Do <i>Launch</i>. What do you want to learn from this text? _____</p> <p>Decide where to place the telegram—in the margins at the beginning of that chunk of text or at the end of the chunk, and on the text or on a sticky tab. Where did you put your <i>Telegrams</i>? _____</p>	
2	<p>DURING: Read a section of the text. Pause at the sticky tab and in as few words as possible, capture the main point of what you learned. These suggestions might help:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If synthesizing is hard for you (join the club!), go over the paragraph or section, and circle the words that seem to make a big contribution to the meaning—try for one per sentence or per line. Then look at the circled words and use some of them and your own words to say the message those key words seem to be pushing you toward. ▪ Pretend that you are going to send a telegram about the meaning of this chunk of text and that you have to pay \$.25 a word. Or think of this kind of download as “texting” on a cell phone but where you have to pay by the word. To save as much money as possible, state the essential meaning of the passage in as few words as possible. ▪ Consider all the details, examples, and explanations in that portion of the text. What do they seem to point toward? State this overall meaning in a phrase or short statement. Make it more than the topic. What did the text teach you about the topic? ▪ How much money would you have to spend to send this telegram? Until you can do this well, practice condensing it even more without losing the message. Be sure your telegram of a section will make sense next week and trigger your memory of you what you just learned. <p>Write one of your <i>Telegrams</i> here. _____</p> <p>How did you decide what to put in this <i>Telegram</i>? _____</p> <p>Check off the elements of the <i>Telegram</i>? Did you. . .</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> capture the main point?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> write it in under two minutes?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> use as few words as you can to trigger your memory of the meaning?</p>	<p>—</p> <p>—</p> <p>—</p>
3	Now, repeat Step 2 for each needed section of text until you finish the reading assignment. How many <i>Telegrams</i> did you create? _____	
4	<p>AFTER Use your <i>Telegrams</i> to review what you learned from the text. How did you do this? _____</p> <p>Optional: Use the same thinking processes you used to create your <i>Telegrams</i> to <i>Make an Abstract</i> AFTER reading. How? Read all your <i>Telegrams</i> and distill the most important points from the entire chapter in one short statement. Make this statement meet the ABCC’s of an abstract: Accurate, Brief, Clear, and Comprehensive. It could be one sentence, two or three, or a more in-depth “publishable” abstract of about 100 to 200 words.</p>	

Record *Telegram* on your Reading Log on the DURING line. Complete the right-hand column.