




Summarizing

Agus D. Priyanto




Summarizing Why do it?


Comprehension:

- * To reduce information to essential ideas in order to:
 - * **Understand** and **learn** important information

Communication:

- * To reduce information to **essential ideas** in order to:
 - * Expand the depth of your writing






Summarizing

Summarize when:

- * You want to establish **background** or offer an overview of a topic
- * You want to describe **common knowledge** (from several sources) about a topic
- * You want to **determine the main ideas** of a single source





A - G - U - S

The Smart Technique

AGUS: the smart technique



- A** Aim at the **main idea**
- G** Get the **supporting detail**
- U** Use **basic signal words**
- S** Simplify by **disregarding unimportant** information





Topic Sentences...

The **TOPIC SENTENCE** is usually the first sentence of the paragraph. It gives the readers an idea of ***what the paragraph is about.***



Topic Sentences cont.

- * However, the TOPIC SENTENCE may **NOT** always be so clearly stated, and it can come in the **middle** or **end** of a paragraph, not just its beginning.
- * Regardless, all TOPIC SENTENCES are supported by **sentences that give details** to develop the MAIN IDEA.





Establishing a focus...

- * The main idea is the **most important information** or **concept** in a text or statement.
- * Sometimes the main idea is explicit; sometimes it is ***implied***.
- * Not all information is equal: **some** is **more important** than the rest.

Templeton, 1997 



Using basic signal words...

WHO?
(subject)

WHAT?
(action)


WHERE?
(location)

WHEN?
(time)

WHY?
(reason)



HOW?
(process)






Summarizing

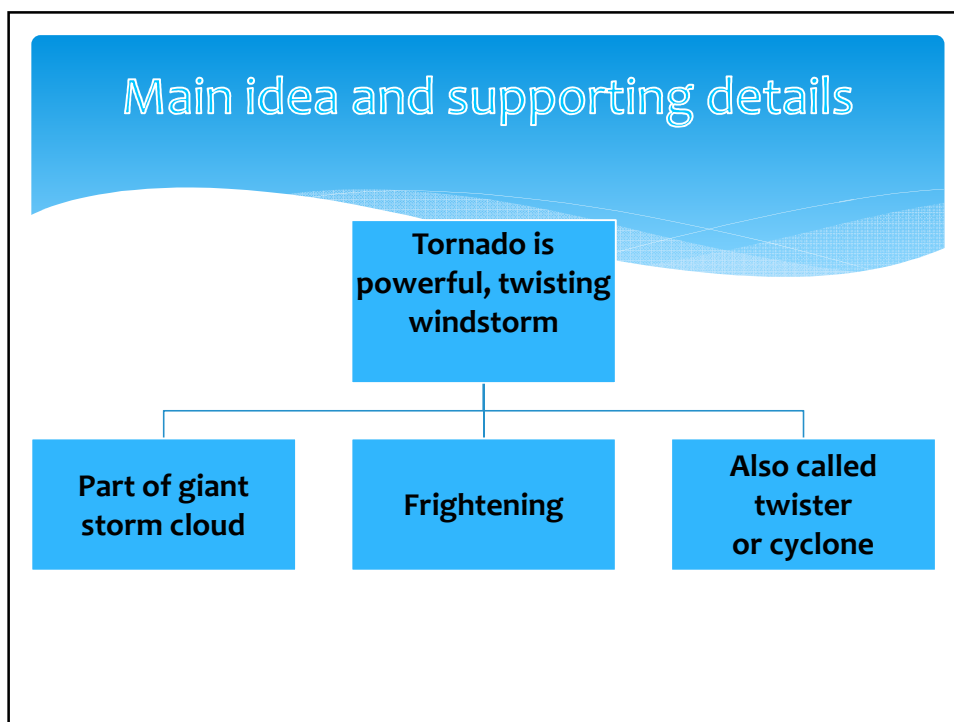
Let's practice
One paragraph at a time...





Example paragraphs...


A tornado is a powerful, twisting windstorm. It begins high in the air, among the winds of a giant storm cloud. People who have watched a tornado's howling winds reach down from the sky have said it's the most frightening thing they have ever seen. In some parts of the United States, these windstorms are called twisters or cyclones.





 Sentence Summary...

Tornadoes are frightening, powerful, twisting windstorms sometimes called twisters or cyclones that start in giant storm clouds.





Tornadoes cont...

Tornadoes are not the only whirling windstorms that move through the earth's air. Dust devils, hurricanes and typhoons all have twisting winds. But these windstorms differ from tornadoes in important ways.



Main idea and supporting details

Dust devils, hurricanes,
and typhoons have
twisting winds

Whirling windstorms

Differ from tornadoes



Sentence Summary...

Dust devils, hurricanes and typhoons also have twisting winds, but they are different from tornadoes.



Tornadoes cont...

Dust devils are the weakest of the swirling windstorms. Their winds usually spin between 12 and 30 miles per hour. Most dust devils are less than five feet across, and few last more than a minute or two. They are often seen in the desert under clear skies. Dust devils form near ground when certain kinds of winds make hot, rising air start to spin.



Main idea and supporting details

Dust devils are
weakest of
swirling windstorms

Less than 30 mph

Five ft. across

Last in a minute
or two



Sentence summary...

Compared to other wind storms, dust devils are the weakest and least severe.

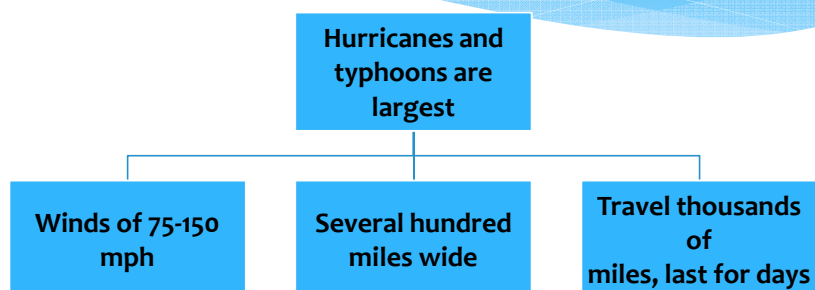




Hurricanes and typhoons are the largest of the swirling windstorms. The winds of these storms blow about 75 to 150 miles per hour. They form over warm, tropical oceans and cause heavy rains as well as strong winds. When a tropical storm like this begins over the Atlantic Ocean or the eastern Pacific Ocean, it is called a hurricane. The same kind of storm in the western Pacific Ocean or Indian Ocean is called a typhoon. Hurricanes and typhoons may be several hundred miles wide, travel thousands of miles and last for days.



Main idea and supporting details





Sentence Summary...

In contrast, hurricanes and typhoons are the largest windstorms. They may be hundreds of miles wide, travel very fast for thousands of miles and can last for days.



Tornadoes are not as large as hurricanes and typhoons and they don't travel as far. In fact, many tornadoes last **only a few minutes**. But the spinning winds of a tornado can rip through the air at up to **300 miles per hour**. The winds of a large tornado are **the fastest, most dangerous** winds on earth.



Main idea and supporting details

Tornadoes are
the fastest, most
dangerous
winds on earth

Last few minutes

300 mph



Sentence Summary...

Although they are not as large as hurricanes and typhoons, tornadoes are the fastest, most dangerous windstorms.





Resources

Purdue Online Writing Lab:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>

Summarizing, Paraphrasing, and Quoting:

<http://mciu.org/~spjvweb/sumparquo.html>

English Language Center Study Zone:

<http://web2.uvcs.uvic.ca/elc/studyzone/410/reading/index.htm>

