

Two-Step Summary

Writer:

For each paragraph: What things does it talk about?
What does it say about them?

Responder:

The things this paragraph talks about: ...
What it says about them is ...

Two-Step Summary looks at what each paragraph of a draft is about and then zooms in a little closer to see what it says about that topic. This can be helpful for a writer wanting to see the structure of a draft, but it can be *really* helpful for us as readers to know what a complicated text is saying, before having a discussion about the ideas or choices the writer might make in a revision.

To give a writer Two-Step Summary, list the things that are talked about in a paragraph. After that, write a sentence in your own words that sums up what it's saying about those things. Repeat this for each paragraph.

It's Like:

Two-Step Summary is a lot like when you're talking to your friend about an important phone conversation. You ask "*What did you talk about?*" And your friend might say "*He talked about moving and summer and his new job.*" And then you might say "*But what did he say about that?*"

Example:

“Paragraph 1

Things: teachers, teacher pay, children

It says about them that: Teachers are an essential part of our kids' lives so we need to pay them well.

Paragraph 2

Things: parents, education

It says about them that: It's good for parents to be involved with their kids schooling but they are busy and tired from just trying to make a living.”

Tutor Notes on Two-Step Summary

1. Read aloud
2. Write individually, **“What things are in this paragraph?”**
3. Share
4. Write individually, in a sentence, in your own words: **“What does it say about those things?”**
5. Share
6. You may want to ask **“What did you leave out?”** especially if responders are ignoring whole parts of paragraph. Or, you may need to say **“Show me where that is in the paragraph,”** if they seem to be inventing things that aren't there.
7. Repeat for each paragraph

The Writer Can:

Do the lens

Watch out for:

Responders projecting ideas they know about a topic but that aren't actually in the text. A complicated paragraph about institutional racism might yield a says sentence something like *“racism is bad and we shouldn't do it,”* because the reader is familiar with those ideas, notices the topic and plugs in what they know. These are called commonplace narratives.