

Get the Gist Reading Module

Teacher Masters

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TM#1: Demonstrate—Gist Statements Poster

- ✓ The gist statement includes the “who” or the “what.”
- ✓ The gist statement contains only the most important information.
- ✓ Gist statements can combine ideas.
- ✓ The gist statement is in your own words.
- ✓ The gist statement contains about 10 or fewer words.

TM#2: Demonstrate—Passage and Gist Log

Should the Penny Be Retired?

It's been our lowest-denomination coin for 154 years. With people leaving pennies at the cash register, some say it's time to get rid of them.

In the 1920s, two pennies would buy you a newspaper from a street vendor. These days, people don't even bother picking up pennies off the street.

The sad fact is that pennies have lost value to the point that they are no longer useful as a form of payment. What's more, it now costs more than a penny to make a penny, highlighting the silliness of continuing to use the coin.

Adapted from: Gore, Jeff. "Should the Penny Be Retired?" *The New York Times Upfront*. Vol. 143. 9 May 2011.

Gist Log

Paragraph #	"Who" or "what" is this paragraph about?	What was the <i>most important</i> information about the "who" or "what"?	Use the information in columns 2 and 3 to write a gist statement containing about 10 or fewer words.
1	pennies	used to be able to buy things, but now people leave them in the street	Pennies used to have value, but now they don't.
2	pennies	aren't valuable or useful, and it costs more to make them than they're worth	

TM#3: Demonstrate—Creating Gist Statements

Paragraph 2 has two pieces of information about pennies:

- 1) Pennies aren't valuable or useful.
- 2) It costs more to make pennies than they're worth.

So how do I choose which one to turn into a gist statement?

- Which is the *most important* piece of information?
- Is one of the ideas included in the other idea?

TM#4: Practice—Passage and Gist Log

Should the Penny Be Retired?

Some people defend the use of the penny.

Does it still make sense to keep the penny when so many more purchases are made today with credit cards, and the cost to make coins has increased? The answer, for a number of reasons, is definitely "yes."

First, people benefit from having a low-value coin. The penny helps keep high prices in check. The alternative to the penny is rounding costs to the nearest nickel. But that will make goods and services more expensive: Since the objective of any business is to maximize profits, most prices would be rounded up—and that would hurt people every time they shop.

Adapted from: Weller, Mark. "Should the Penny Be Retired?" *The New York Times Upfront*. Vol. 143. 9 May 2011.

Gist Log

Paragraph #	"Who" or "what" is this paragraph about?	What was the <i>most important</i> information about the "who" or "what"?	Use the information in columns 2 and 3 to write a gist statement containing about 10 or fewer words.
1			
2			

TM#5: Practice—Passage and Gist Log—Answer Key

Should the Penny Be Retired?

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Adapted from: Weller, Mark. "Should the Penny Be Retired?" *The New York Times Upfront*. Vol. 143. 9 May 2011.

Gist Log

Paragraph #	"Who" or "what" is this paragraph about?	What was the <i>most important</i> information about the "who" or "what"?	Use the information in columns 2 and 3 to write a gist statement containing about 10 or fewer words.
1	<i>pennies</i>	<i>Pennies aren't used as often as they once were, and they cost more, but we should keep them.</i>	<i>Answers will vary. One possible answer: Even though there are downsides, we should keep pennies.</i>
2	<i>pennies</i>	<i>Getting rid of pennies would make prices go up.</i>	<i>Getting rid of pennies would make prices go up.</i>

TM#6: Independent Practice—Answer Key

Part 1: Review the Strategy

1. What is a “gist statement”? a summary containing about 10 words or fewer that identifies the most important “who” or “what” of a text, and the most important information about that “who” or “what”
2. Why is it important to summarize small sections of text as you read?
so you can keep track of the main ideas in your reading

Part 2: Apply the Strategy

Directions: Read the following paragraph and complete the Gist Log.

Have Youth Sports Become Too Intense?

The time and energy youth sports require—along with injuries—are on the rise.

It's not just adults who think youth sports have become too intense in recent years. A lot of kids think so too. In 2006, the Minnesota Youth Soccer Association asked young players about behavior they had observed at sports games. Specifically, kids were asked about how the adults—parents, coaches, and fans—were behaving. More than a third said they had been yelled at or teased by a fan; 15 percent said their parents get angry when they play poorly.

Adapted from: Hyman, Mark. “Have Youth Sports Become Too Intense?” *The New York Times Upfront*. Vol. 143. 21 Feb. 2011.

Gist Log

“Who” or “what” is this paragraph about?	What was the <i>most important</i> information about the “who” or “what”?	Use the information in columns 1 and 2 to write a gist statement containing about 10 or fewer words.
<i>kids</i>	<i>say they’ve been yelled at, teased, or had their parents get angry because of how they play</i>	<i>Many kids say they have been treated badly in sports.</i>