Skills Coach

Summarize Informational Texts

GET READY

When you **summarize** an informational text, you briefly retell the main points and most important details in your own words. Summarizing is a good way to check your understanding of a text. It can also help you remember a text more clearly.

Keep these rules in mind when you summarize:
- Follow the order of ideas and information in the original text. Use transition words such as "first," "next," and "finally" to help readers follow the order.
- Leave out any details that are not needed to understand the main points. Your summary should be much shorter than the original text.
- Make sure that your summary is accurate and objective. You should only include the author's opinions, not your own.

Notice how the summary below focuses on the main points of the original text.

Original Passage
Public support for police body cameras has been strong from the beginning. According to one recent poll, 88 percent of respondents said cameras would make officers more accountable and would ensure that police act within the law. However, while some studies show positive changes when police use body cameras, other research tells a different story. Critics of body cameras point to studies showing that police were more likely to be assaulted when wearing body cameras, possibly because some people respond negatively when they know they're being videotaped.
—from "Police Body Cameras: Roll 'Em or Not?"

Summary

Most people support the use of police body cameras because they believe cameras make officers behave more responsibly. Although some studies show the benefits of cameras, others show an increase in assaults on officers who wear them.

PRACTICE AND APPLY

Use the graphic organizer below to summarize an informational text.

Title: Enter title.

Summary: Enter an example.