# The Gist Strategy

*Goal: identify & restate main idea in 25 words or less*

## Watch the video

**The method:** After completing a close reading of your text, summarize the main idea or "Gist" of that section in your own words. Depending on your comprehension of the material and density of the reading, summaries may follow a paragraph, section, or page.

**You will place this note…**
1) On a sticky note in middle of page
2) In notebook labeled per page/reading passage
3) On running Word Doc labeled per page/reading passage
4) In apps like Notability, you can create a sticky note and place it directly on the PDF

**Students identify the most important idea in a section of text by using the following steps:**

1. Preview the text by looking at headings, subheadings, pictures, bolded terms, diagrams, etc.

2. As you read, ask yourself the following questions. This will help guide your highlighting and annotations:

   - **Who** is doing **what**?

   - **When** and **where** is this taking place?

   - **Why** is this taking place <u>or</u> **Why** is this important?

   - **How** is this taking place?

3. Create a short (approximately 25 words) Gist Summary of text that encapsulates as much of the above as relevant. <u>Note</u>: one section may cover the Who and What while the next section might cover the Why and How.
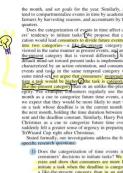
### Example for Notebook or Sticky Note:

**Psychology: Tu & Soman Reading**
*Page 811:*
- Hypothesis: We divide future events into two categories: "like-the-present" and "unlike-the-present." Our categorization is tied into task initiation with like-the-present equaling higher task initiation . The researchers will try to prove this.

**Note Breakdown**
- Who – Humans
- What— Categorize future
- How – "like-the-present" and "unlike-the-present"
- Why – Categorization impacts task initiation
- When – 2014 Study



Source Material: "The Categorization of time and Its Impact on Task Initiation" by Yanping Tu and Dilip Soman in the *Journal of Consumer Research, Inc*. Vol. 41. October 2014