Rule-Based Note Taking

Rule-Based Summarizing:

Student steps in Rule-Based Summarizing:

1. Take out material that is not important for your understanding.
2. Take out words that repeat information.
3. Replace a list of things with a word that describes the things in the list (e.g., use trees for elm, oak, and maple).
4. Find a topic sentence. If you cannot find a topic sentence, make one up.

Teacher Steps in Rule-Based Summarizing (deletion method):

1. Distribute copies of a short text (1-1 1/2 pages) divided into four or five sections that represent logical summarizing points, indicated by a line and the word “STOP” in the margins.
2. Explain Rule-based method (above) to students. Introduce the text to be read, build prior knowledge, and discuss key vocabulary. Read aloud the first passage of the text while students read along silently.
3. Present a think-aloud and model to students how the four rules are applied to the text.
4. Read aloud the second passage and practice with the class. This time ask students to work with partners to apply the rules to the passage. Discuss the suggestions as a class.
5. Students can finish the selections in groups or independently. They can write their own summaries of the material.

Fact Fragment Frenzy
An electronic tutorial of this strategy can be found on the ReadWriteThink.org. This tutorial includes a modeled description and a way for students to practice the strategy on the site.
http://www.readwritethink.org/materials/factfrenzy/opening.html