

S-O-S Summary

What is an S-O-S Summary?

The teacher presents a *statement* (S), asks the student's *opinion* (O) (whether the student agrees or disagrees with the statement), and asks the student to *support* (S) his or her opinion with evidence.

When to use?

Before instruction: to assess student attitudes, beliefs, and knowledge about a topic.

During instruction: to assess what students are coming to understand about the topic.

After instruction: to assess if attitudes and beliefs have been influenced or changed as a result of new learning and if they can better support their opinion.

How does it work?

1. Provide students with an S-O-S Summary sheet. *See provided attachment.*
2. Write a statement (**not a question!**) on the board for students to copy.
3. Give students a couple of minutes to agree or disagree with the statement by listing facts, data, reasons, examples, counterexamples and so on that they have learned from class discussion, reading, or presentations.
4. Collect the S-O-S Summary sheets to assess student learning.
5. Make decision about the direction that instruction will go next.

Sample Statements

- a) The character was justified when _____.
- b) The passage (or the author) implies/suggests_____.
- c) The writer's overall feeling toward _____ is_____.
- d) The Industrial Revolution produced only positive effects on society.
- e) You will never need fractions once you graduate.
- f) The moon is too small to have any effect on the Earth.

Extension:

1. Ask half of the class to agree with a statement and the other half to disagree.
2. Hold a debate with the two groups stand on opposite sides; students defend their opinions orally by using all of the facts, data, and examples they have written.

3. Then ask students to return to their seats and write the very best argument they can for the opposite viewpoint.
4. This is an excellent exercise for developing listening skills, arguing from a particular viewpoint, and deconstructing conflicts in literature, history, and everyday life.

S-O-S Summary

Name _____ Date _____

Read the following statement: _____

What does it mean? _____

What's your opinion? Circle one: I agree I disagree

Support your opinion with evidence (facts, reasons, examples, etc.).

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Name _____ Date _____

Read the following statement: _____

What does it mean? _____

What's your opinion? Circle one: I agree I disagree

Support your opinion with evidence (facts, reasons, examples, etc.).

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