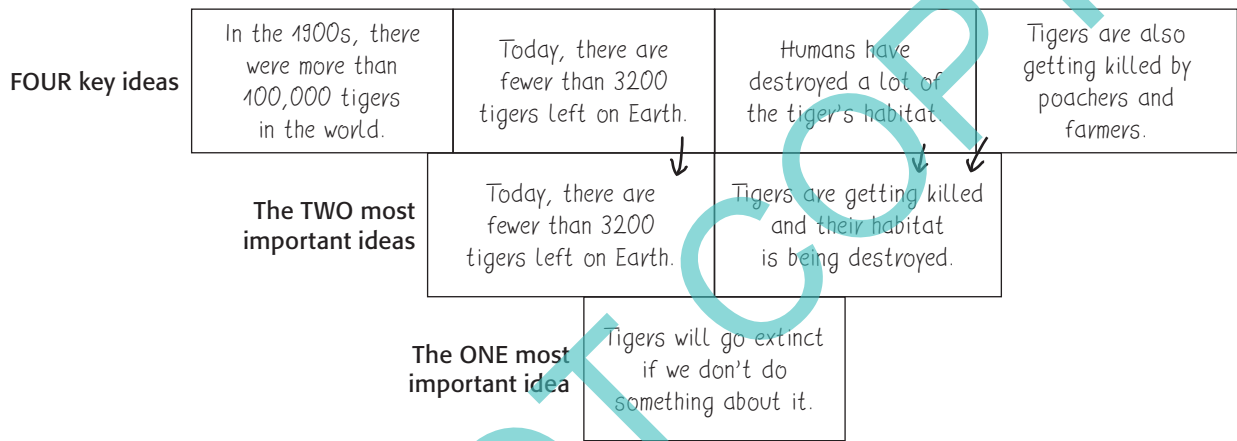


## How is this tool used in the classroom?

- ✓ To have students summarize the key ideas from a lecture, text, or other learning experience
- ✓ To check students' understanding of material they've read or learned about
- ✓ To assess students' ability to identify main ideas and support them with details/examples
- ✓ To help students learn to distinguish essential information from non-essential information

**EXAMPLE:** Here is the organizer that a fifth grader completed after reading an article on endangered tigers. Notice that in negotiating the key ideas down from four to one, this student and his partners kept some of his original ideas (*There are fewer than 3200 tigers left on Earth*), combined some of his original ideas (*Tigers are getting killed and their habitat is being destroyed*), and wrote one idea—the final main idea—from scratch (*Tigers will go extinct if we don't do something about it*).



### Summary paragraph: What did I learn by reading this article?

Tigers are in big trouble. If we don't do something about it, they will go extinct. Last century, there were over 100,000 tigers in the world. Today, there are fewer than 3200. Tigers need lots of space and the places where they live are getting destroyed by humans. In the last ten years, about half of their habitat has been destroyed. Another problem is that tigers are getting killed by poachers. Killing the tigers is illegal, but the poachers do it anyway because they want to sell tiger skin and tiger claws and tiger teeth for money. Thinking about a world with no more tigers makes me sad. If we don't do something about this problem, kids 100 years from now might not even know what a tiger is.

### Variation: 4-2-1 Freewrite

Have students freewrite about their main ideas instead of writing formal summary paragraphs. The goal is to have them get everything they know or feel about the topic (thoughts, questions, reactions) down on paper without worrying about the quality or correctness of their writing.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Topic or text: \_\_\_\_\_

## 4-2-1 Summarize Organizer

FOUR  
key ideas

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The TWO most  
important ideas

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The ONE most  
important idea

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Summary paragraph:

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