Mental Moves

Summarize

1. Study the Text

How is this material laid out? Are there clues such as headings I should use?

2. Identify the Main Idea

What is the central point of this material?

3. Identify Key Moments

What shifts, elements, or developments will help me organize my summary?

4. Select Details

Which details are important and which can I safely ignore?

5. (Re)Organize

What format—paragraphs, bullet points, using headings—will best communicate a summary of this material?