

## GET TO THE POINT

**Purpose:** Summarize, summarize, summarize! Strong summarizing skills are needed for success on the integrated speaking and writing tasks and the summary information questions on the TOEFL® iBT. This activity allows small groups of students to kinetically identify main ideas and supporting details.

**Organization:** Pairs or small groups

**Preparation:** Listening selection with audioscript; one set of key point/detail strips for each group, cut apart.

**Time:** 20-30 minutes

### Procedure:

1. Choose a listening selection with audioscript from the integrated tasks sections of a TOEFL iBT test preparation book.
2. Briefly paraphrase the main points and some supporting details or examples. A sample from *NorthStar Building Skills for the TOEFL® iBT: Intermediate* follows.
3. Type them up so that they can be cut into separate strips. Make one set of strips for each group.
4. Divide students into pairs or small groups of 3-4.
5. Play the listening one time, and have students listen for what they think is the main idea. Have them share in their group. (The teacher can write a couple of their responses on the board. Later the class can determine if they were accurate.)
6. Distribute one set of strips to each group. Have students shuffle them. Then have the students lay out the strips in front of them.
7. Instruct the students to listen a second time and, while listening, divide the strips into two columns: key points and details.
8. Have students listen one more time to check their choices. Key points and details should follow the same order as the selection.
9. Review as a class. Emphasize the difference between key points and support.

**Follow-up:** Collect the strips and have the students write a very brief summary, individually or in groups, depending on level.

### Sample Summary: The Mormon View of Marriage\*

The early Mormons had nontraditional marriage customs.

Mormon men could marry more than one woman.

Nine of the wives of one Mormon leader all had babies during the same week.

Women were obliged to marry young and have a lot of children.

Mormons thought they should have large families to make the church bigger and more powerful.

Nowadays, Mormons are monogamous.

Mormons believe husbands and wives should be partners now and forever.

### Original Text: The Mormon View of Marriage

A well-known example of a different style of marriage is found among the early Mormons, a Christian religion that began in the United States.

The group's first leader, Joseph Smith, believed that a man should be allowed to have several wives. As the Mormon Church developed, many of the men followed Smith's teaching and married a number of women. In 1854, one Mormon leader became a father nine times in *one week* when nine of his wives all had babies.

At that time, the Mormons believed that it was a woman's duty to marry at a young age and to raise as many children as possible. The Mormons

viewed having children as a way of increasing the number of faithful and making the church stronger.

Today, the Mormon Church, which calls itself the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, teaches that marriage should be a partnership between one man and one woman who will be together not only during this life but also forever.

\*Source: *NorthStar Building Skills for the TOEFL® iBT: Intermediate*, by John Beaumont (Pearson Longman, 2006), p. 196.