



concise:
shorter than the original,
with no unnecessary words

Mars Rover Model Celebration – Lesson Plan

Introduction:

One of the new words for this lesson is **concise**. Concise means “shorter than the original, with no unnecessary words”. People often use the word concise to describe someone writing a speech. The antonym (or opposite) of concise is verbose, which means to use many more words than necessary.

Let’s look at two pictures that will help us understand the meaning of the word concise. Both of the books shown are on the same subject, how to make ice cream. In the first picture, the book is very thick and takes hundreds of pages to explain how to make ice cream. This book is NOT concise. However, the second book explains how to make ice cream in just a few pages. The second book is a concise guide.

Example:

Let me give you another example of concise. At our school, there are announcements each morning. Our principal works very hard to ensure that the announcements are as concise as possible. His (her) goal is to give us the information we need in as few words as possible. That way we have more time to teach and learn. Even though the principal works to make the announcements concise, he (she) also has to ensure that they are complete and clear. Morning announcements are not useful if we cannot use the information because they are incomplete or confusing.

Reflection:

I am going to read some sentences. If they are short, clear and complete, put your thumbs up and say CONCISE. If the sentences I read are incomplete, confusing, or use many extra words, put your thumbs down and remain silent. If the sentences are not concise, think of a way to say the same information concisely.

- Mars has two moons. The two moons of Mars are Phobos and Deimos. Those are the names of the two moons. (thumbs down—RESTATE: *Mars has two moons named Phobos and Deimos*)
- Mars is red because of the large amounts of iron in the soil. (thumbs up)
- Mars is much colder than Earth. Earth is much warmer than Mars. You would be colder on MARS than you would be on Earth. (thumbs down—RESTATE: *Mars is much colder than Earth.*)
- NASA has sent several spaceships to Mars. Some orbit the planet taking pictures and others land and send back data from the surface. (thumbs up)

Make it personal:

The announcers on the evening news try to be concise. Think for a moment why it is important for newscasts to be concise. Share your ideas with your neighbors. Be sure to start your sharing with, “I think newscasts have to be concise because...” I will ask some of you to share your ideas. (*Newscasts are concise because there are many different news articles that people are interested in. Short articles allow the newscasters to cover many different stories.*)