



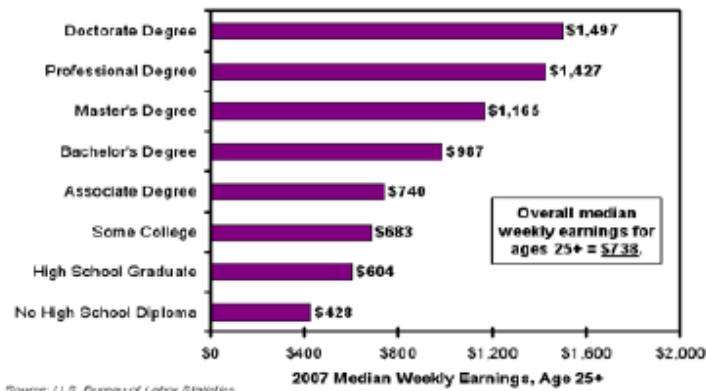
## Step Up to Writing Strategy Spotlight

### Summarizing Charts and Graphs

The ability to look at a graph or chart and accurately interpret its meaning is a valuable school and life skill. You can find a wealth of charts and graphs that pertain to the topics you are teaching in your textbooks and on the Internet. Check out <http://www.usatoday.com/snapshot/news/snapindex.htm>.

1. Introduce a chart and ask your students to read and think about it:

**Education Pays: Higher Educational Attainment Generally Yields Higher Weekly Earnings**



2. On the board or document camera, complete an IVF summary sentence together:

| I (Identify)                           | V (Verb)    | F (Finish Thought)   |
|--|-------------|--|
| The 2007 US Bureau of Labor Statistics | illustrates | the median weekly income of workers 25 and up increases based on the amount of education attained. |

3. Next, work together to complete a fact outline on the board:

- No high school diploma - \$428, least amount
- Bachelor's degree - \$987, double the drop-out
- Doctorate degree - \$1,497

4. Complete a summary paragraph by copying the summary sentence and writing additional sentences for the important facts you noted:

The 2007 US Bureau of Labor Statistics illustrates that overall median weekly income increases based on the amount of education an individual has earned. An individual lacking a high school diploma earned \$428, the least amount of all the categories studied. An individual with a bachelor's degree earned \$987, more than double the weekly earnings of a high school drop-out. The highest degree studied, doctorate degree, earned the highest weekly wage, \$1,497.

5. Teach, repeatedly, until your students are ready to fly solo!

Precise VERBS are powerful. Try these:

Acknowledge

Add

Advise

Answer

Assure

Blame

Capture

Clarify

Classify

Compare

Confirm

Confront

Defend

Demonstrate

Depict

Describe

Discourage

Endorse

Entertain

Enumerate

Evaluate

Explain

Express

Feature

Identify

Judge

Mention

Offer

Praise

Predict

Present

Recommend

Solve

Warn