Section Summaries
Capturing the Big Picture!

Purpose
“Section Summaries” are a great way to capture the Big Picture and demonstrate a mastery of the material.

Method
MESA Creators work through each Section by following the “MESA Story for Learning” – the basic formula for approaching the learning:

By using the Big Picture Approach to Problem Solving, MESA Creators can see the Big Picture when they complete each Section, and they can answer the following questions:

1. **CONCEPT** – what is the Concept?
2. **S.A.M.** (Setup-Algorithm-Method) – what is the S.A.M. (i.e. steps to follow for solving problems)?
3. **VARIATION** – what is the Variation AND how does the variation AFFECT the S.A.M.?

With the Big Picture fresh in their minds, MESA Creators can easily write a Section Summary capturing the Big Picture before moving to the next Section. This method is repeated after each Section.

Benefits
+ Section Summaries provide an opportunity to capture the Big Picture in writing (Remember MESA Law #1: *If you don’t write it down, it didn’t happen!*), and they make it easier to prepare for tests!
+ If the Big Picture is not clear (Concept, S.A.M. & Variation), then MESA Creators can get help by reviewing their Section Summaries with other MESA Creators, tutors and/or professors.
+ **Repetitious review**: Each time a new Section Summary is completed, stop and review the previous Section Summaries plus the new Section Summary. This is key for moving information to long term memory.