

## Rule-Based Strategy:

- Delete trivial material that is unnecessary to understanding.
- Delete redundant material.
- Substitute superordinate terms for lists (e.g., “flowers” for “daisies, tulips, and roses”).
- Select a topic sentence, or invent one if it is missing.

## Sample Passage

### Why Does Studying Solar Wind Tell Us About the Origin of Our Solar System?

Most scientists believe our solar system was formed 4.6 billion years ago with the gravitational collapse of the solar nebula, a cloud of interstellar gas, dust, and ice created from previous generations of stars. As time went on the grains of ice and dust bumped into and stuck to one another, eventually forming the planets, moons, comets, and asteroids as we know them today.

How this transition from the solar nebula to planets took place has both fascinated and mystified scientists. Why did some planets, like Venus, develop thick, poisonous atmospheres, while others, like Earth, became hospitable to life? Partial answers are available from the study of the chemical composition of the solar system bodies, which scientists find are significantly different from one another. This information helps them model various processes for planet formation, but they are still hampered by one major question: What was the original solar nebula made of?

Our sun may contain the answer. It contains over 99 percent of all the material in the solar system and, while its interior has been modified by nuclear reactions, its outer layers are believed to be composed of the same material as the original solar nebula. By collecting and studying solar wind, the material flung from the sun, scientists may find more answers to this mysterious puzzle.