

Name: _____ Date: _____

Analyzing Central Idea and Author's Purpose in Informational Texts



Objective

In this lesson, you will

- determine and analyze a central idea of a text and write a summary.
- identify an author's purpose.
- determine the technical meanings of words and phrases.

Analyzing Central Idea and Author's Purpose



Summarize: to give the _____ points of a text

AUTHOR'S PURPOSE BASICS

Authors write informational text to achieve an **overall purpose**—usually to _____ the reader about a topic or to _____ the reader to accept an idea. Authors also have an _____ **purpose for why** they choose to **include certain details** and leave out others in a text.

As you read a text, you can think about the **author's purpose for including** _____ **details** and information as well as the **author's** _____ **purpose** for writing the text.



CENTRAL IDEA BASICS

The **central idea** of a text is the **main point that the author wants the reader to** _____.

There are some key features of a central idea:

- It is a **main point** or _____ the author is conveying.
- It is **developed by details** _____ the course of a text.
- It is often _____ **explicitly stated**.
- There may be _____ **than one** central idea in a text.

DETERMINING THE MEANING OF WORDS

In order to understand central ideas in a text, it is important to determine the meaning of unfamiliar or _____ words.

Context Clues

One way to determine a word's meaning is to use _____ **clues**. Context clues are the words _____ **or near** a challenging word or phrase. Sometimes the context clue is in the same sentence. Sometimes it is in the sentence before or after the word.

When you encounter challenging or technical words and phrases in a text, try the following context clue strategies to help you determine the meaning of the word:

- Look for a **definition**.

Context Clues: Definition

Example: The software, **or computer programs and operating information**, you will need for this class are available on the website.

Notice how the bolded text provides a _____ to help the reader determine that *software* means computer programs and operating information.

- Look for a _____.

Context Clues: Synonym

Example: The software was easy to follow. The **operating system** was thoroughly explained and included diagrams.

Notice how the bolded text provides a _____ to help the reader determine that *software* is also known as an operating system.

- Look for an **antonym**.

Context Clues: Antonym

Example: Yesterday we learned about computer **hardware, the mechanical, magnetic, electronic, and electrical components of a computer**. Today, we're learning about software.

The reader can see how these sentences are creating a contrast between the learning that happened yesterday and today. Notice how the bolded text provides an _____ to help the reader determine the meaning of the word *software* in the next sentence.

- Look for an _____.

Context Clues: Example

Example: You will need to download software, such as **an Internet browser and word processing program**, to complete the work for this class.

Notice how the bolded text provides _____ that the reader is likely familiar with to clarify the meaning of the word *software* in the context of the sentence.

Reference Materials

If looking for context clues does not help you to determine the meaning of the word, you can also use **reference materials**, such as a _____ or a dictionary.

**ANALYZING CENTRAL IDEA AND AUTHOR'S PURPOSE**

To analyze the central idea and author's purpose in an informational text, you should **first** determine the meaning of any _____ language using **context clues** and **reference materials**. Then, closely examine the details in the text and ask yourself these questions:

- What **central idea** is the author _____ ?
- What **details** _____ this idea?
- What is the **author's** _____ for including a **specific detail**?
- What is the **author's** _____ **purpose**?

Summarizing Ideas

EXAMPLE SUMMARY

Read the model summary of the video “Video Game Therapy” to see how to write a summary that focuses on central idea and author’s purpose.

Notice that a summary:

- _____ **retells the central idea**
- **includes only** _____ **information**
- **does** _____ **include minor details**
- **is in your** _____ **words but is opinion-free**

Remember: A summary is **objective** when it does not include _____ descriptions, _____ thoughts, or _____ from the text.

The central idea of the video “Video Game Therapy” is that video games are finding their place as a tool therapists can use to treat clients. The maker of the video introduces the idea that people often focus on the negative effects associated with playing video games and redirects the audience’s focus to how video games can help people.

The video gives evidence to support the central idea by citing statistics about why video games are a good fit for teen clients and explains how things like VR are used in therapy to treat PTSD in teen and adult clients. The video also acknowledges that more research needs to be done to determine how long-lasting and effective using video games as part of therapy can be.

The author’s purpose for the video is to inform the audience about the use of video games in therapy and to explain the related benefits of gaming. The maker wants the audience to know that video games help therapists to connect and interact with their clients.