

THE CENTRAL IDEA OF THE TEXT

How do I determine the central idea of a text?

Topic + the main point the text makes about the topic = Central Idea

Here are questions to help check the Central Idea:

- A. Does the central idea make a point about the topic?
- B. Does the central idea cover the whole selection and not just one detail or event?
- C. Are there at least three strong supporting details to support this central idea?
- D. Is the central idea too specific so it doesn't allow the reader to apply the central idea to his/her life?
- E. What point do the key details repeat and add up to?
- F. Is the central idea something useful that can help you to think or act in the world?

In Chapter _____, the central idea was _____