

Central Idea and Summary

C04-L02-LEARNER · v0.1.0 · Independent cover assignment · L02 source v0.2.5

Purpose: identify the topic and central idea in one original fictional passage, then write a brief objective summary supported by key details.

Suggested work window: about 20 minutes. Planning estimate for this independent-use version; not classroom-tested. The source lesson allocated 10 minutes to this task after its model and guided practice, so allow more time when needed.

Materials: this three-page packet and a pencil. A highlighter is optional. No device or outside source is needed.

Use this short strategy

A topic names who or what a passage is about. A central idea states an important point developed across the whole passage. An objective summary restates that point with key details in your own words and leaves out opinion and outside information.

Work on your own. Read the passage. Mark or note at least two details that support a point about the whole passage. Use the planning organizer if helpful, then write your final response on page 2. If a direction is unclear, reread it or ask the substitute to repeat it without suggesting an answer.

A Notice Board with a Clear Routine

Original fictional instructional example.

At the made-up North Field Center, volunteers posted notices for clubs, games and craft times on one large board. At first, new notices went wherever a space looked open. Some covered older dates, and visitors had to scan the whole board to find the week's activities. The volunteers tried a simple routine. They grouped notices under three headings, wrote an end date on each notice, and removed expired notices every Monday. They also placed the current week's schedule at eye level near the entrance. In the following week, visitors could find current activities without reading every older notice. The volunteers kept the routine because clear sections and regular updates made the board easier to use.

Write your response

Read “A Notice Board with a Clear Routine” on your own. Before you write, you may use the planning organizer on the next page. Write the topic in a word or short phrase. State the central idea in one complete sentence. Then write a 2–3 sentence objective summary that includes at least two key details. Use your own words; do not add an opinion or information from outside the passage. Put your finished response in the lines here. If you need more room, use a separate sheet.

Check: Did you state the whole-passage point? Does your summary include at least two accurate details? Did you leave out opinion and outside information?

Planning organizer

Optional planning space. Take ideas and evidence from the passage; this organizer does not choose details or provide the answer.

Topic: who or what is the passage about?

What point does the whole passage develop? (brief phrase)

Key detail 1 from the passage

Key detail 2 from the passage

Central idea: state the whole-passage point in one sentence

Objective summary: draft 2–3 sentences in your own words

If your response is complete, use a separate sheet to write a new title that captures the central idea and explain which two details support it. If your summary already includes only key details, choose one accurate passage detail to leave out and explain why it is less important.

Derived from the independent task and organizer in L02 v0.2.5. The passage is original fiction.