TEACHER KEY · LESSON WORKSHEET · GRADE 6 · 6.RC.5 & 6.RC.8

# Central Idea & Author's Argument

Fill in each part when its number appears on the slide.

## PART 1 · TARGET

I can determine the central idea of a text and evaluate whether an author's claims are supported by evidence.

## PART 2 · WARM-UP

1. What is the difference between a fact and an opinion? Give one example of each.
   Key: A fact can be proven; an opinion is a belief. Examples vary.
2. An ad says "Everyone loves SuperSnack!" Is that strong evidence? Why?
   Key: No. "Everyone" is an exaggeration with no proof.
3. What makes a source reliable?
   Key: Written by an expert or trusted organization, accurate, up to date, can be checked in other sources.

## PART 3 · PREDICTION

Which ad is more convincing? A: "Our cereal is the BEST, everyone loves it!" B: "Our cereal has 8 grams of protein, twice the leading brand."

Circle one: [ ] Ad A [ ] Ad B [ ] Both the same

## PART 4 · VOCABULARY

| Word | Meaning |
|---|---|
| Central idea | The most important idea of the whole text. |
| Claim | A statement the author wants you to believe. |
| Reason | Why the author believes the claim. |
| Evidence | Facts, statistics, examples, or expert quotes that prove a reason. |

## PART 5 · CENTRAL IDEA

The CENTRAL IDEA is what the whole text is mostly about.

Check: Which is a central idea, not a topic?

Circle one: (A) Small local actions can help pollinators recover. (B) Pollinators (C) Bees (D) Gardens in Carmel

Key: (A) Small local actions can help pollinators recover. A central idea is a full statement.

## PART 6 · CLAIM, REASONS, EVIDENCE

An argument has a CLAIM, reasons, and EVIDENCE.

Check: Which is evidence, not a claim?

Circle one: (A) Later starts are better. (B) I think sleep matters. (C) A survey found 70% of students get less than 8 hours of sleep. (D) We should start school later.

Key: (C) A survey found 70% of students get less than 8 hours of sleep. It is a specific statistic.

## PART 7 · UNSUPPORTED CLAIMS

Words like "EVERYONE KNOWS" and "best" often signal an UNSUPPORTED claim.

Check: Tap the TWO unsupported phrases.

Underline the answer: Everyone knows that recess is the best part of the day. Students get 20 minutes.

Key: Everyone knows + is the best. They are exaggeration and opinion.

## PART 8 · COUNTERCLAIMS

A COUNTERCLAIM is the other side. Strong writers RESPOND to it with evidence.

Check: Why include a counterclaim?

Circle one: (A) It changes the topic (B) It shows you considered the other side and can answer it (C) It makes the essay longer (D) It proves you are wrong

Key: (B) It shows you considered the other side and can answer it. Answering the other side makes an argument stronger.

## PART 9 · WORKED EXAMPLE

1. Claim: Our school should start later.
2. Reason: Students need more sleep to learn well.
3. Evidence: The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends 8:30 a.m. or later.
4. Label: expert source = strong evidence.

## PART 10 · WE DO

Argument: "Schools should have longer recess. A study found students focus better after 20 minutes of play. Recess is the best!" Label the claim, evidence, and unsupported part.

Answer: Claim, study = evidence, "the best" = unsupported

## PART 11 · YOU DO

Which sentence is a counterclaim?

Circle one: (A) A study found students focus better after play. (B) Schools should add ten minutes. (C) Some people argue that longer recess wastes learning time. (D) Recess helps students focus.

Key: (C) Some people argue that longer recess wastes learning time. "Some people argue" introduces the other side.

## PART 12 · WORK TIME: THE VIRAL POST INVESTIGATION

Write each code piece as you earn it: File 1: T File 2: R File 3: U File 4: T File 5: H

**Final code: TRUTH**

## PART 13 · WRAP-UP

Was your prediction in Part 3 right? One thing I learned today:

Key: Written by an expert or trusted organization, accurate, up to date, can be checked in other sources.