



Central Idea Builder: City Trees

Mission: The city council needs a one-sentence central idea for its tree-planting brochure, plus an objective summary. Sort the key details, find how they build the central idea, and write both.

Big question: How is a central idea conveyed through details, and how do we summarize objectively?

★ Warm-up: Objective or not?

Is each sentence objective?

"The article explains that trees cool cities." ✓ **Objective.**

"This awesome article made me love trees." ✓ **Not objective (opinion).**

Key vocabulary

Central idea	The main point of the whole text.
Objective	Without personal opinions.
Supporting idea	A big point that helps prove the central idea.
Convey	Communicate or express.

1 Box 1

Mark key details

In the simulator: Mark at least 4 key detail sentences.

What did you notice?

2 Box 2

Sort the details

In the simulator: Sort each detail under its supporting idea (or the trash).

What did you notice?

3 Box 3

Central idea

Which sentence best states the CENTRAL idea of the whole article?

☐ Cities are planting trees because trees cool and clean cities and improve people's well-being.

☐ Streets without trees are hot. ☐ Leaves clog gutters. ☐ Los Angeles is planting trees.

✓ **Cities are planting trees because trees cool and clean cities and improve people's well-being.**

4 Box 4

Write the central idea

Write the central idea in your own words (one sentence) that includes both supporting ideas.

Look for: Names trees; Environmental benefit; People benefit; at least 14 words

5 Box 5

Objective summary

Write an objective summary (40–70 words).

Look for: Central idea; Cooling; Clean air; People; at least 40 words

6 Box 6

Legend: last sentence Legend only

How does the final sentence help convey the central idea?

- ☐ It sums up that the benefits of trees are long-lasting ☐ It introduces a new topic ☐ It gives a statistic

✓ **It sums up that the benefits of trees are long-lasting**



Exit ticket: answer the big question in your own words

How is a central idea conveyed through details, and how do we summarize objectively?

Look for: The central idea is the most important point of the whole text. Authors build it through supporting ideas and details. An objective summary states the central idea and key supporting points without opinions or minor details.

Completion codes

Students see a code like **ABC-I3** when they finish. The first part must match below. The letter is the level (E = Explorer, I = Investigator, L = Legend), and the number at the end is how many stars they earned.

Level	Code starts with
 Explorer	1F3-E
 Investigator	1PA-I
 Legend	QV8-L



Watch for these misconceptions

- "A strong argument just needs strong feelings." Arguments need evidence.
- "Statistics always prove a claim." Evidence must be relevant and from a reliable source.
- "The central idea is the topic." The central idea is a full statement about the topic.