Holding It Up

Find the center. Show how it grows.



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Think, pair, share



What is text about vs. what does it say?

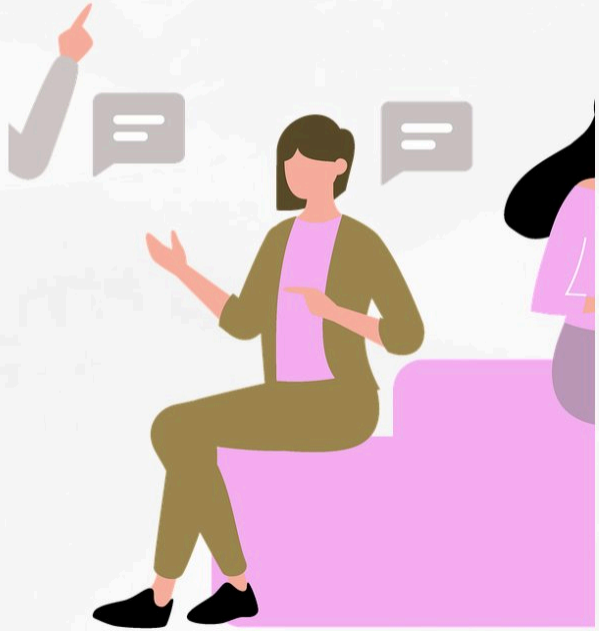


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Topic Is Not the Point

Topic: 1-2 words

Supports: reasons, examples

Summary: no opinions

Main Point

Central idea: full sentence

Development: grows by paragraph

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Find the Center

1. Gist each paragraph in 3 words
2. Spot repeated point across gists
3. Write one sentence: topic + point
4. Link paragraphs with because





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What could this be?



Holds up a whole building, not decoration. What holds up a text?

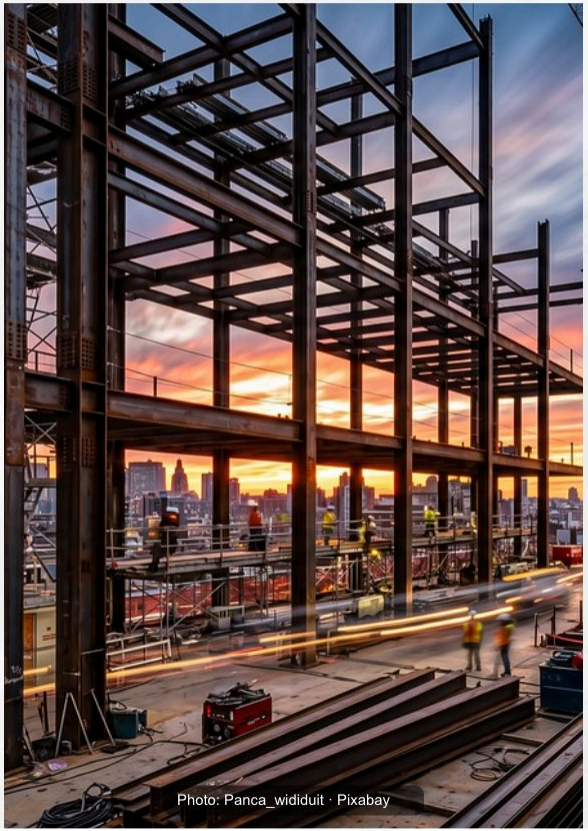


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Spot the Center



▶ 0:00 – 4:50

- Listen for topic vs full point
- Spot how details link to center



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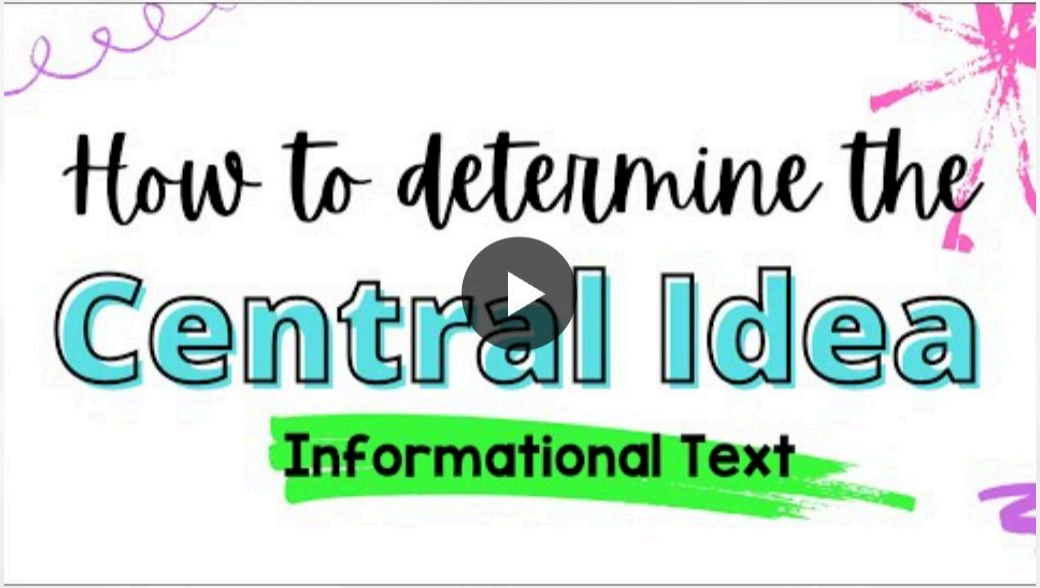


Reading Builds More

- Reading takes in meaning from symbols by sight or touch. Children read better when they know more about the world and reading feels like fun.

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Grow It Paragraph by Paragraph



▶ 0:00 – 4:45

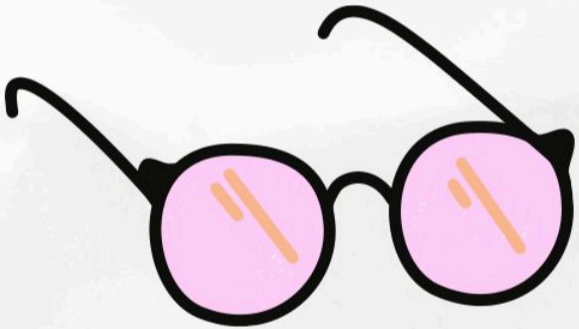
- Track how idea adds across paragraphs
- Catch neutral words for summary





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Your task



Read this text: Our class tried two weeks with phones off for homework and lunch. Focus rose, missing work dropped, talks grew, and clear limits kept control.

1. Agree one-sentence center on top
2. Add gist note per part below
3. Draw arrows with because, for example

20 min

Groups of 4

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Write It Clean



Author only

Use only what the author states.

Neutral verbs

Use states, explains, shows, adds.

No opinions

Cut amazing, boring, should, I feel.

Keep short

Keep center plus key supports.

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How Do You Find It?

Which helps you most to find the big point?

A. Reread slowly

B. Talk with a partner

C. Use headings first

Vote with your hands, then explain why.

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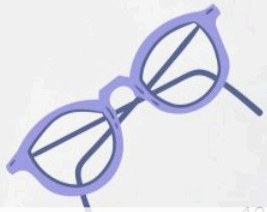
Quick quiz

1. Topic and central idea are the same. True or false?

2. Phones were off for two weeks and focus rose. How does phones off develop the center?

3. Make objective: Amazing challenge, students should do it.





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