

NONFICTION

# Central Idea

# TEACH

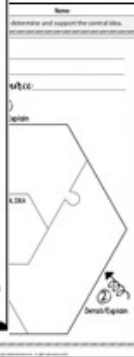
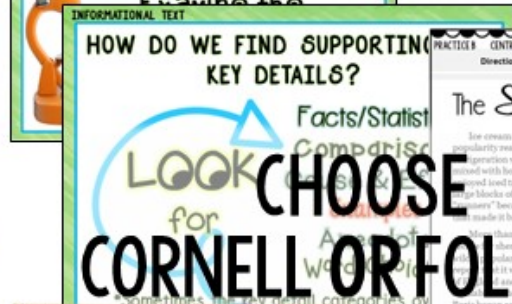
EASY TO USE *Grades*  
6-8

# PRACTICE

# & TEST

# CORNELL OR FOLDING NOTES

Isn't it  
GREAT to  
have  
choices?




Darlene  
Anne



The animated slides provide information and guidance in finding central idea AND writing about the supporting details.

INFORMATIONAL TEXT

**CENTRAL IDEA** + **SUPPORTING DETAILS**



INFORMATIONAL TEXT

**TO FIND THE CENTRAL IDEA**


**1st DETERMINE**

Look for hints in the **title** and of **sentences**

INFORMATIONAL TEXT

**IS THE CENTRAL IDEA OBVIOUS?**


It might be stated directly but often must be **inferred** based on the topic sentence and supporting details



INFORMATIONAL TEXT

**HOW DO WE FIND SUPPORTING KEY DETAILS?**

**LOOK** for



INFORMATIONAL TEXT

**USE RACE** **PROVE IT!**

Restate the question  
Answer the **question**  
Cite evidence  
Explain/validate the evidence  
Cite evidence  
Explain/validate the evidence  
Cite evidence  
Explain/validate the evidence

Provide At least 2-3 pieces of text evidence to support your answer

# PowerPoint & NOTES

## STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

**LET'S FIND THE CENTRAL IDEA OF A PARAGRAPH**

Read the following passage:

The English language is always evolving, in order to address new communication needs. Sometimes, parts of different words are merged and a new word, called a **portmanteau**, is formed. **Email** comes from the words **electronic** and **mail**. **Emoticon** comes from **emotion** and **icon**. Can you guess which two words **labradoodle** comes from? Be sure not to confuse portmanteaus with compound words like **starfish**, which is clearly formed from two whole words. Portmanteaus prove the English language is alive and growing.

What is the **GENERAL IDEA** of the paragraph?

**1st** Determine the \_\_\_\_\_

**2nd** Ask Yourself:  
• What \_\_\_\_\_ does the author want the reader to take away about the topic?  
• What is the **ENTIRE** piece mostly about?  
• **LOOK** closely at the beginning & the details.  
Underline Evidence: \_\_\_\_\_  
CENTRAL IDEA: Portmanteau words are \_\_\_\_\_ when \_\_\_\_\_ are blended together to form a \_\_\_\_\_

Is this the **CENTRAL IDEA**?  
**PROVE IT!**  
If you can't prove it, your answer is probably wrong  
1) Tell what the passage is about.  
2) Explain the key details.  
Explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
Summarize: \_\_\_\_\_

Cornell Notes

OR

Folding

**YOUR CHOICE!**

TOP AA Central Idea

**CENTRAL IDEA**  
AKA Main Idea

**Informational Text**  
examples  
CENTRAL IDEA → \_\_\_\_\_

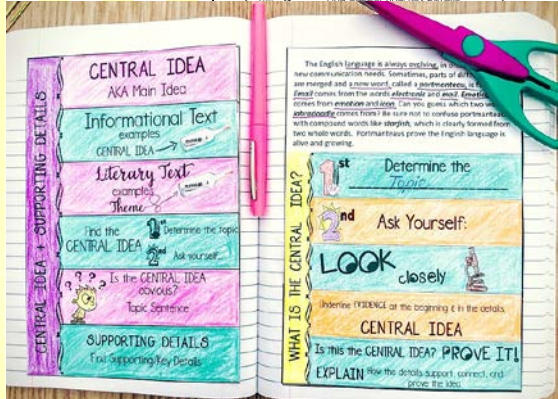
**Literary Text**  
examples  
Theme → \_\_\_\_\_

Find the **CENTRAL IDEA**  
**1st** Determine the topic  
**2nd** Ask yourself: \_\_\_\_\_

Is the **CENTRAL IDEA** **OBVIOUS**?  
Topic Sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPORTING DETAILS**  
Find Supporting/Key Details

Put the lines like the left tab onto the flap on the flat page so that the doors open



**CENTRAL IDEA**  
AKA Main Idea

**Informational Text**  
examples  
CENTRAL IDEA → \_\_\_\_\_

**Literary Text**  
examples  
Theme → \_\_\_\_\_

Find the **CENTRAL IDEA**  
**1st** Determine the topic  
**2nd** Ask yourself: \_\_\_\_\_

Is the **CENTRAL IDEA** **OBVIOUS**?  
Topic Sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPORTING DETAILS**  
Find Supporting/Key Details

**WHAT IS THE CENTRAL IDEA?**  
**1st** Determine the Topic  
**2nd** Ask Yourself:  
**LOOK** closely  
Determine EVIDENCE at the beginning & in the details.  
**CENTRAL IDEA**  
Is this the **CENTRAL IDEA**? **PROVE IT!**  
**EXPLAIN** How the details support, connect, and prove the topic.

**Easy to Use**

**FUN + ENGAGING**

**LET'S FIND THE CENTRAL IDEA OF A LONGER PASSAGE**

**1st** Determine the Topic

**2nd** ASK Yourself

**3rd** Reread

**CENTRAL IDEA**  
Is this the **CENTRAL IDEA**?

**Determine the Topic**  
Look for hints in the title and opening sentences.

**Ask Yourself:**  
• What message does the author want the reader to take away about the topic?  
• What is the **ENTIRE** piece mostly about?  
**Reread**  
• How do the first paragraph, the last paragraph, and the middle paragraphs support, connect, and prove the topic?

**Directions:** Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.



## Clean those CHOPPERS

Dentists say that we should brush our teeth at least two times a day for a duration of two minutes. They also recommend flossing to remove even more decay-causing plaque. This raises the following question: If the first toothbrush wasn't patented until 1857, how did people clean their pearly whites before toothbrushes?

Judging by historical reports, most people didn't *have* pearly whites. Few folks managed to keep all of their teeth into adulthood, and those who did often sported teeth ranging in color from moss green to pencil-lead brown. Bad teeth were quite ordinary. In fact, missing or rotting teeth were so commonplace that they weren't necessarily seen as unattractive. The British Prime Minister in 1851, Palmerston, was considered devastatingly handsome, even though he was missing several front teeth.

When people did desire clean teeth or fresher breath, they experimented with a variety of remedies. Many people used toothwicks and other homemade devices to clean between teeth. Others chewed on herbs like mint and cinnamon. Sometimes they rinsed with vinegar. Some of the



...ces w  
question  
such as t  
recommen  
that people  
their mouth  
with gunpow  
For a while, there  
was a movement  
in France to  
utilize one's  
own urine as  
a mouth  
rinse.



A 1899  
toothbrush  
advertisement.

Tools employed for cleaning teeth date all the way back to 3500-3000 BC, when the Babylonians and Egyptians created "brushes" by fraying the end of a branch. Around 1600 BC, the Chinese created "chewing sticks," which were made from sprouting tree twigs that were used to freshen one's breath. It wasn't until the 15<sup>th</sup> century that the Chinese invented the first natural bristle toothbrush, made from bristles that combed from the back of a pig's neck. The bristles were attached to a handle made of bone or bamboo. When the toothbrush was brought to Europe, Europeans used horsehairs, a softer option than pig bristles.



It is rumored that Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821) regularly used this horsehair toothbrush.

Toothbrushes and oral hygiene practices of today are a far cry from those of our ancestors. Walk down the tooth care aisle of any drug store and you'll see a plethora of products. There are pastes that whiten, gels that fight gingivitis, brushes that "reach" and "angle" and run on batteries. You can even squeeze chocolate-flavored toothpaste onto an edible toothbrush and gargle with bubble-gum flavored mouth rinse.

The next time your dentist reminds you to brush and floss regularly, be grateful. At least he's not recommending you rinse with gunpowder.

### Dental Tips

Visit your  
dentist every 6  
months.

Limit snacks &  
eat healthful  
meals.



BRUSH FOR 2  
MINUTES,  
2 TIMES A DAY.

Floss your  
teeth every  
day

⇒ Guided & Independent Practice ⇒



PRACTICE A CENTRAL IDEA

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Answer these questions about *The Race to Solve the World's Water Woes*. Use the "wink-wink" hints to help you.

What is the TOPIC of the passage?

How do you know?

(Hint: Look at the title and opening.)

Blank writing area for the first question.

What is the CENTRAL IDEA of the passage?

Provide 3 details that the author included to support this central idea.

(Hint: Think about the message & what the author is trying to tell you about.)

(Hint: Look for facts, statistics, comparisons, cause & effect, examples, anecdotes, and word choices.)

Blank writing area for the second question, with numbered circles 1, 2, and 3 on the left side.

What is the CENTRAL IDEA of the fourth paragraph?

Provide evidence to support this central idea.

(Hint: JUST the fourth paragraph.)

Blank writing area for the third question, with numbered circles 1, 2, and 3 on the left side.

PRACTICE A CENTRAL IDEA

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Answer these questions about *The Race to Solve the World's Water Woes*.

Read this line from paragraph 3.

A mesh net inside collects droplets of dew that form along the surface.  
How does this line support the central idea of the paragraph?

(Hint: First determine the central idea.)

Blank writing area for the first question on the right page.

What is the PURPOSE of the diagram?

(Hint: A text feature might support the central idea of the message, or it might have a central idea all its own.)

Blank writing area for the diagram question.

Which of the following could be another title for "The Race to Solve the World's Water Woes"?

(Hint: Questions about the title are central idea questions.)

- A. ... has a Water Problem
  - B. ... Condensation Forms
  - C. ... Shortage Problems and Solutions
  - D. The ... Solve Water Shortage Problems
- ⇒ Explain

What is the CENTRAL IDEA of paragraph 5? Include specific text details.

Blank writing area for the final question on the right page.

Directions: Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

ICE CREAM MAGAZINE

# The Scoop on ICE CREAM

Ice cream is one of the world's best loved desserts. Did you know its popularity reaches back thousands of years? That is well before modern refrigeration was available. Records indicate that ancient Greeks mixed snow with honey and fruit in the markets of Athens. The Romans enjoyed iced treats under Nero's reign. The Vikings had a harvest of large blocks of ice and snow from nearby mountains. They were called "runners" because they had to do a quick run to the mountains to get the ice that made it back without melting. The ice was flavored with fruits and juices.

More than a thousand years later, Marco Polo returned to Italy with a recipe for a dessert like sorbet, ice cream, and sherbet became popular with the king's royalty. Historians report that it was served at the tables of Henry II of England and Charles I, but it still wasn't available to the average person. In 1660, a café in Paris began serving ice cream, and it was finally offered to the general public.

The first ice cream parlor opened in New York in 1790. However, ice cream was still a rare and exotic dessert. Few people could afford the high prices. Around 1800, insulated ice houses were invented, and ice cream manufacturing became an industry.

Today, ice cream is truly a favorite dessert worldwide. China is the world's biggest ice cream market, with the U.S., Australia, and Norway not far behind. Globally, the ice cream market surpasses sales of 50 billion dollars annually.

Next time you are deciding which of the 100 delicious flavors you want in your cone, just think: at least no one has to run up a mountain.



Sundae's Start

In 1881, soda fountain owner, Ed Berners of Wisconsin invented the first ice cream sundae, when a customer requested that Berners serve him a dish of ice cream topped with the syrup used for sodas.

-Angel Oliva

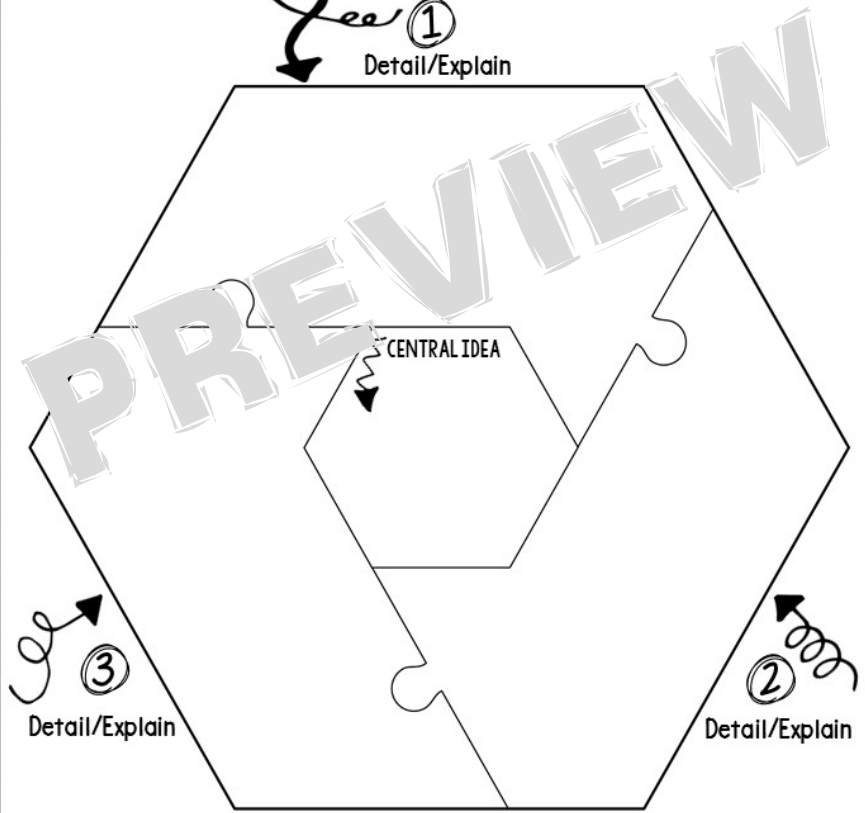
Directions: Use the central idea puzzle to determine and support the central idea.

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Author \_\_\_\_\_

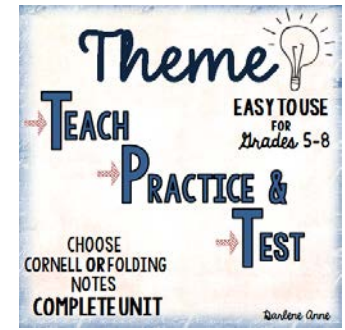
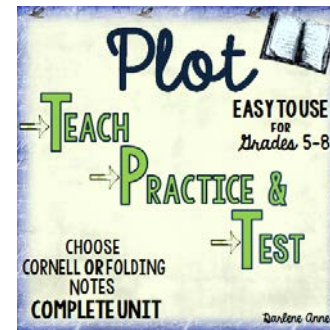
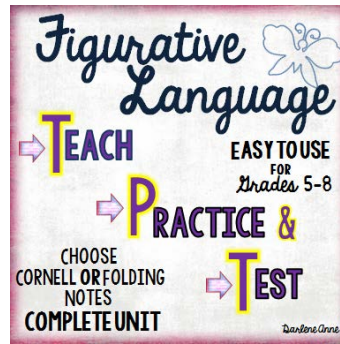
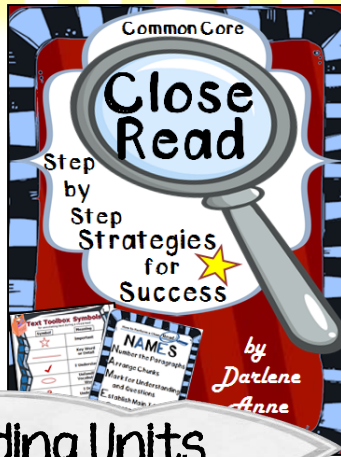
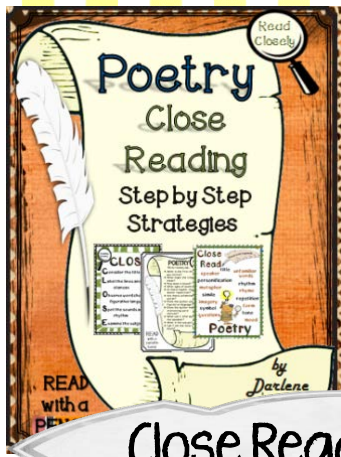
Source \_\_\_\_\_

See ①  
Detail/Explain



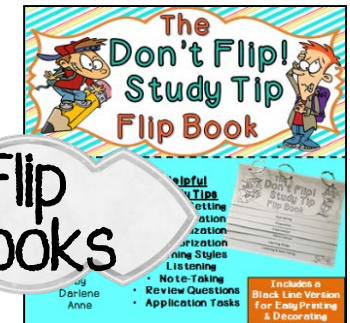
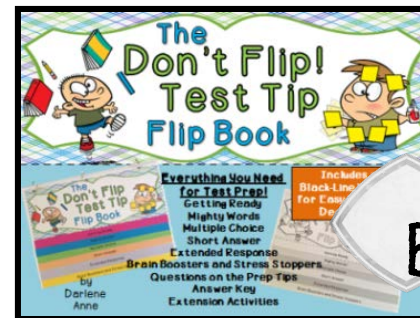
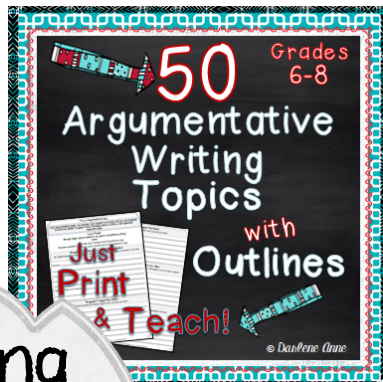
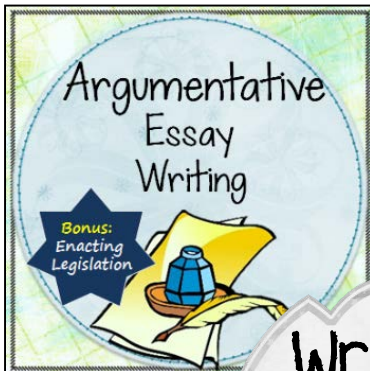
⇒ Graphic Organizer for ANY Text ⇒





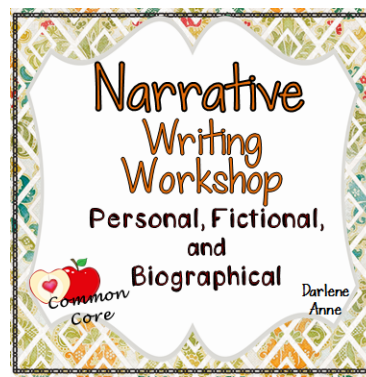
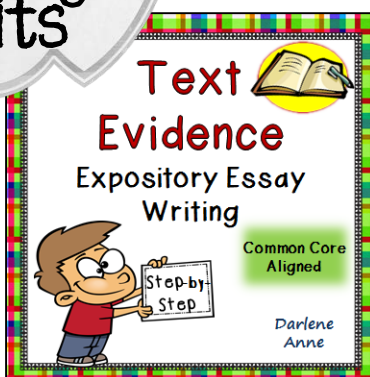
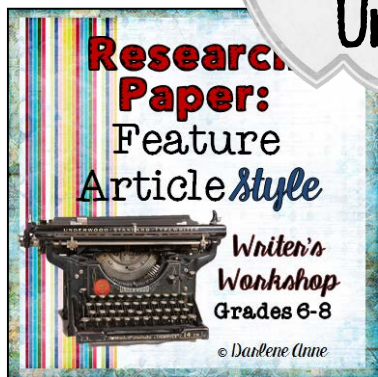
Close Reading Units

Literary Elements: PowerPoints  
Choice: Interactive or Cornell Notes



Writing Units

Flip Books



And Much More!

All designed to make YOUR life easier!