Determining Central Idea and Writing Summaries of Informational Texts

Aligns directly to CCSS RI.4.2, RI.5.2, RI.6.2, RI.7.2, RI.8.2, and RI.9-10.2
## Determining Central Idea

**Directions:** Complete the following chart to determine the central (main) idea of a text.

Copy down the title, headings, sub-headings, bold and italicized words in the document:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is the PURPOSE of the text?</th>
<th>How is the text STRUCTURED?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**What are the three MOST important points being made in the text?**

1. 
2. 
3. 

**SO...**

What is the CENTRAL idea of the text? (Write your three main points into one complete, concise sentence)

©2012 Secondary Solutions www.4secondarysolutions.com
Summarizing a Non-Fictional Text

In one or two words, who or what is the text about? (You can usually tell from the title)

What are the 3 MOST important things we learn about this topic from this text?
1. ____________________________________________________________
2. ____________________________________________________________
3. ____________________________________________________________

What is the CENTRAL idea of the text? Write this in ONE sentence.

Using your CENTRAL idea as your topic sentence and the 3 most important things above that as your details, write a one-paragraph summary of the text on the lines below.

______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________