



NJSLA Research Simulation Task

Grade 8 Reading

Lesson 4: Identifying Supporting Details

Rationale

- To be successful on the NJSLA assessments, in addition to identifying main ideas, students will be required to identify supporting details in informational text, used to inform, describe, supplement, and emphasize the main idea.

Goals

- To prepare students for the reading assessment by teaching them strategies to identify supporting details.

Task Foci

- **CCSS RI.8.1:** Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- **CCSS RI.8.2:** Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to supporting ideas; provide an objective summary of the text.

Objectives

- Students will be able to identify textual evidence that supports the main idea.

Materials

- Informational text from Lesson 3
- Main Idea worksheet from Lesson 3
- Supporting Details worksheet

Procedures

- Tell the class that today they are going to work on finding supporting details.
- Using a sample passage from an informational text the class has read recently, model how to find a supporting detail by clearly identifying it and explaining precisely how it supports the main idea.
- Distribute the students' worksheets on main idea from Lesson 3 and have them re-read their statement of the main idea.

- Have the class re-read the text from Lesson 3. Then ask them, **“Do you still think your statement of the main idea is accurate.”**
- Explain, **“Whether the answer is ‘yes’ or ‘no’, today we are going to find evidence in the text that supports the main idea, and revise our main idea statements if we find that they aren’t correct.”**
- Distribute the Supporting Details worksheet.
- Preview the worksheet.
- Give students 10 minutes to complete.
- Bring the class back together and discuss students’ findings.

Assessment

- Check that students correctly identified supporting details on their worksheet.
- Check that students revised their main idea statement to better reflect the text’s main idea.

Finding Evidence to Support the Main Idea

Use your handout “What’s the Main Idea” to help you find supporting details.

1. Supporting Detail _____

Explain why this detail supports the main idea _____

2. Supporting Detail _____

Explain why this detail supports the main idea _____

3. Supporting Detail _____

Explain why this detail supports the main idea _____

Based on the details you found, would you revise your main idea statement? Write your updated main idea statement below.
