

Developing a Central Idea

What is a Central Idea?

A statement that ...

- is an enduring understanding.
- relates and connects concepts.
- transfers through time and across cultures.

How do you develop a Central Idea?

1. Look at the content of your topic and ask yourself what deeper ideas do you think you will learn about. These are the concepts.
2. Record the concepts on a concept web. Try to use only one or two words for each.
3. Link related concepts on the web.
4. Use the linked concepts to make a statement that is an enduring understanding.

Our issue is...

CONCEPT WEB: Use *Inspiration* or the space below.

After doing some preliminary research, web all the concepts connected to your topic that you can find. Use the space below.

How do you write a Central Idea?

- Identify the most important concepts that connect to your topic.
- Write a sentence that pairs or connects two or more concepts from your topic.
- Do not mention the topic or use concepts that are too specific.
- Avoid the passive voice and past tense verbs. Try and avoid the use of *to be* verbs (is, are, have).
- Do not write a definition.
- Use qualifiers (may, can, often) if your Central Idea may not always be true or apply to ALL situations.

Key Concepts: (IB Concepts)	
Brainstorm possible Central Ideas:	
Our Central Idea is...	

How do I know if I have written a good Central Idea?

- Did you include two or more concepts in your statement?
- Have you used an active, present-tense verb?
- Did you avoid using proper and personal nouns?
- Did you avoid the use of *to be* (is, are) and *have* verbs?
- Did you write a complete sentence.