

Critical Concepts 8.2A Non-Fiction Writing Lesson Plans

Turning Graphic Organizers into Writing Responses

After students complete their organizers, model how to turn it into a short paragraph.

Prompt:

Write an objective summary of the text that includes the central idea and the essential supporting details. Exclude personal feelings, opinions, or unnecessary examples.

- **Central Idea**
- **Essential Supporting Detail (what develops the central idea)**
- **Refinement/Connection (how details deepen or sharpen the central idea)**
- **Objective Tone (showing no personal opinion or bias)**

I Do – Politics in the Social Media Age

The article explains that social media has transformed the way politics works in America. It highlights that platforms like Twitter and Facebook allow information to spread rapidly and give politicians a direct way to reach voters. However, the article also refines this idea by showing that social media can spread misinformation just as quickly as reliable news. Overall, the central idea is that social media plays a powerful but double-edged role in politics.

We Do – How Tweeted Is by Linton Weeks

The article shows that Twitter has become an important platform for breaking news. It develops this by explaining that events are often reported first on Twitter before traditional news outlets. The text refines the idea by warning that speed sometimes comes at the cost of accuracy. The summary focuses only on the role Twitter plays in shaping how people receive news, without adding personal opinions about whether it is good or bad.

You Do with Partner – How Bloggers Can Benefit Fashion Brands by Justin Fenner

The article explains that fashion bloggers play a major role in influencing brands and consumers. It develops this by describing how bloggers can help market products, shape public opinion, and spread new fashion trends. The text refines the idea by showing that fashion companies often collaborate directly with bloggers to boost visibility. The summary emphasizes the central role of bloggers in fashion branding, leaving out extra examples about individual bloggers.

You Do Independently – Nelson Mandela's Address on His Release from Prison

In his address, Nelson Mandela emphasizes the importance of freedom and unity for South Africa's future. He thanks supporters for their role in ending his imprisonment and highlights

the need for equality among all people. He refines this by calling for reconciliation and peace rather than revenge, showing that freedom must be paired with healing. This objective summary explains Mandela's main message without including personal interpretations of his emotions.

Extension – The Gas is Greener by Robert Bryce

The article argues that natural gas is the best option for America's energy future. It develops this idea by explaining that natural gas is cheaper, more abundant, and cleaner than other fuels. The author refines the argument by comparing it to coal and oil, showing why natural gas is more reliable long term. The summary objectively presents the author's claim and supporting points, without agreeing or disagreeing with his opinion.