

Library Message Hunt

Identify the central claim in a secondary source.

3.14.E "identify the central claim in a primary or secondary source; and"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that states the author's central claim, then number two details that support it.

Libraries Build Communities

- ① In the late 1800s and early 1900s, many towns built public libraries with money from Andrew Carnegie. Carnegie gave funds for buildings, but each town had to provide land and promise to support the library with local taxes. This plan helped build more than 1,600 public library buildings in the United States. The libraries were meant to be useful to everyone.
- ② The new libraries gave children and adults a place to borrow books, attend talks, and study. A library card did not cost money in many towns. Yet not every person could use every library equally. In some places, unfair segregation kept Black residents from entering the same buildings as white residents. Communities later worked to make public libraries more open to all.
- ③ Today, public libraries do more than lend books. Many offer computers, homework help, story times, and meeting rooms. These services show why libraries have remained important community places. From Carnegie's building gifts to today's programs, public libraries have given people chances to learn, share ideas, and take part in community life without paying a fee.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What is the author's central claim about public libraries?

2 Copy the sentence in paragraph 3 that states the central claim.

3 Write one detail from paragraph 1 or 2 that supports the central claim.

4 A student says, "The article is mostly about Andrew Carnegie giving money." Is that the central claim? Explain your answer.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write three sentences for a class book about a community place. In the first sentence, state a central claim about why the place matters. In the next two sentences, give facts that support your claim.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that states the author's central claim, then number two details that support it. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the author's central claim about public libraries?	Public libraries are important community places because they give people free chances to learn, share ideas, and take part in community life.
2	Copy the sentence in paragraph 3 that states the central claim.	From Carnegie's building gifts to today's programs, public libraries have given people chances to learn, share ideas, and take part in community life without paying a fee.
3	Write one detail from paragraph 1 or 2 that supports the central claim.	Answers may include that libraries gave people a place to borrow books, attend talks, and study, or that library cards did not cost money in many towns.
4	A student says, "The article is mostly about Andrew Carnegie giving money." Is that the central claim? Explain your answer.	No. Carnegie's gifts are one supporting detail. The central claim is about how public libraries have helped people learn and join community life.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our town library is an important place for learning and sharing. People can borrow books and use computers there. Children can join story time, and groups can meet in its rooms.

Accept a central claim that states the passage's overall message, not only a fact about Carnegie or one library service. For the open response, accept reasonable claims with two details that clearly support the claim.