

Small Actions, Big Impact

Identifying the Central Idea

In this lesson, students will read about a teenager named Damen who is making a positive impact on his community by taking action to reduce trash pollution in his neighborhood, while also inspiring others to do the same.

Grades: 3-5		Subject(s): ELA & SS
Focus Standard(s)	RI2: Determine a theme or central idea of text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize a text. D2.Civ.2.3-5; D2.Civ.6.3-5; D2.Civ.10.3-5; D2.Geo.5.3-5; D4.7.3-5	
Learning Objective(s)	Students will be able to identify the central idea of a text by answering guiding questions and identifying key details.	
Materials/Resources	A Cleaner for the Community Sticky notes	
Vocabulary	Campaign: goal; mission; movement; Nonprofit: not designed to make money; Efficient: effective; working fast with less energy; Donated: given away; Outcome: end result	
Anticipatory Set	Essential Question: What can people do to care for our planet? Ask students if they've ever noticed trash in their community and what actions (if any) they've taken to remove the litter.	
Mini-Lesson/ Guided Practice	Introduce the article and explain that they will be reading about a teenager named Damen who took action to clean up his neighborhood. After reading the article, ask students to write one sentence on their sticky note, stating the central idea of the article. Use the following questions to guide students to identifying the central idea. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does Damen do to help his community? • How does Damen's method of cleaning up his community change over time? • What is the problem that Damen is trying to address in his community? • How does Damen inspire others to get involved in cleaning up their communities? 	
Independent Practice	Have students read the article independently, referring to the guiding questions as needed in order to identify the central idea of the text.	
Closure/Assessment	Read and/or collect students' sticky notes, assessing their sentences for understanding of the central idea of the article. [Sample response: A teenager named Damen is addressing the problem of litter and trash pollution in his community by cleaning up the trash and inspiring others to take similar actions.]	
Differentiation	Adjust lexile® levels as needed; answer questions as a whole group; use accessibility features or read-to-me feature as needed; print copies of article	