

Name _____

How do I figure out the main idea or central claim of a text?

a. What is the speaker trying to persuade the audience **to do** (usually to make a change, fight for a cause, stand up against an injustice, accept a belief, support an idea, etc.)? **Say what that change, injustice, cause, belief, or idea is.**

b. Why? What has occurred that is causing the author to call for this change?

c. According to the author, what are the long-term effects, implications or consequences of taking or not taking this action? Who will be affected and how?

CENTRAL CLAIM – Combine the ideas above from 2a, 2b & 2c into ONE concise sentence.

Author's Name argues that because / even though **B** , his/her audience needs to **A** so that **C**.

Name of Author

_____ argues that because / even though _____

his/her audience needs to _____

so that _____

Rubric Identifying a Central Claim				
Advanced (5)	Proficient (4)	Basic (3)	Below Basic (2)	Far Below (1)
Concisely combines the author's most significant claims & the relationships between them into a clear sentence.	Accurately identifies the author's opinion about the most significant topics in the text.	Accurately identifies the author's opinion about a <u>major</u> topic in the text (ie. explains some of the main idea but is incomplete)	Identifies 1 or more topics in the text but . . . <ul style="list-style-type: none">• not the author's opinion about it.• message is unclear.• shows minor confusion text.• writes a summary or fact about the text	Shows little to no understanding of the text