



Literacy Design Collaborative: Template Tasks and Sample Prompts Standard RI.2 Grades 6-12: Informational Texts

The LDC team received feedback from many teachers in the field seeking template tasks more tightly referencing the specific language of the common core state standards. Accordingly, we have created examples of possible LDC “CCSS-Language” template tasks for the community to review. If feedback is positive, our team will create a full complement of “CCSS-Language” template tasks on the LDC website.

6 RI.2: Determine central ideas: Determine a central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.

Template: [Insert optional question] After reading _____ (literary non-fiction or informational text/s), write _____ (essay or substitute) in which you determine a central idea and how it is conveyed through particular details _____ (content).

Sample: After reading *Vincent Van Gogh: Portrait of an Artist* and viewing his works, write an essay in which you determine a central idea and how it is conveyed through particular details about his life.

7 RI.2: Determine central ideas: Determine two or more central ideas in a text and analyze their development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.

Template: [Insert optional question] After reading _____ (literary non-fiction or informational text/s), write _____ (essay or substitute) in which you determine two or more central ideas and analyze their development over the course of _____ (e.g. text/s, work/s). Include a summary of _____ (e.g. text).

Sample: After reading *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass and American Slave, Written by Himself* and viewing resources of his life, write an essay in which you determine two central ideas and analyze their development over the course of the biography. Include a summary of Douglass’ main points.

8 RI.2: Determine central ideas: Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to supporting ideas; provide an objective summary of the text.

Template: [Insert optional question] After reading _____ (literary non-fiction or informational text/s), write _____ (essay or substitute) in which you determine a central idea and analyze its development over the course of _____ (e.g. text/s, work/s), including its relationship to _____ (e.g. supporting ideas). Include a summary of _____ (e.g. text).



Sample: After reading Steinbeck's *Travels with Charlie* and tracing his travels on a map, write a book review in which you determine a central idea and analyze its development over the course of the biography, including its relationship to his travels. Include a summary in your review.

9-10 RI 2: Determine central ideas: Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.

Template: [Insert optional question] After reading _____ (literary non-fiction or informational text/s), write _____ (essay or substitute) in which you determine _____ a central idea and analyze its development over the course of _____ (e.g. text/s, work/s). Discuss how this central idea emerges and is refined by specific details. Include a summary of _____ (e.g. text).

Sample: After reading Quindlen's *A Quilt of a Country*, write an essay in which you determine her central idea and analyze its development over the course of the text. Discuss how this central idea emerges and is refined by specific details. Include a summary of her essay.

11-12 RI 2: Determine central ideas: Determine two or more central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to provide a complex analysis; provide an objective summary of the text.

Template: [Insert optional question] After reading _____ (literary non-fiction or informational text/s), write _____ (essay or substitute) in which you determine _____ (two or more) central ideas and analyze their development over the course of _____ (e.g. text/s, work/s). Discuss how these central ideas interact and build on one another. Include a summary of _____ (e.g. text).

Sample: After reading Mario Cuomo's *Two Cities*, write an essay in which you determine his two central ideas and analyze their development over the course of the work. Discuss how these central ideas interact and build on one another. Include a summary of Cuomo's article.



The hard-wired standards are in bold. Choose W1 or W2 to match the type of writing demanded in the teaching task.

RI 1	W1	L1
RI 2	W2	L2
RI 3	W4	L3
RI 4	W5	L4
RI 5	W6	L5
RI 6	W7	L6
RI 7	W8	
R 8	W9	
RI 9	W10	
RI10		

Assessment Tasks for Classroom Use: (RI2 Template Tasks)

Texts should be short enough to be read within 10-15 minutes to allow for time to write a response.

6 RI 2: Determine central ideas:

After reading _____ (literary non-fiction or informational text), write a short response in which you identify its central idea and its most important supporting details.

7 RI 2: Determine central ideas:

After reading _____ (literary non-fiction or informational text), write a summary in which you identify two central ideas and briefly note their development over the course of the text.

8 RI 2: Determine central ideas:

After reading _____ (literary non-fiction or informational text/s), write a summary in which you identify a central idea and briefly note its relationship to supporting ideas.

9-10 RI 2: Determine central ideas:

After reading _____ (literary non-fiction or informational text/s), write a short response in which you identify a central idea and note how this central idea is refined by specific details.

11-12 RI 2: Determine central ideas:

After reading _____ (literary non-fiction or informational text/s), write a short response in which you identify two or more central ideas and note how these central ideas provide a complex analysis.