At a Glance

- Studying details about a topic, such as civil rights or inflation, to arrive at a main idea
- Using details about an event or a culture to arrive at a main idea
- Examining details about a topic, such as stages of memory or gender roles, to arrive at a main idea

Differentiated Instruction: Lesson 1

Group advanced students in pairs. Ask each pair to identify a topic from the text. Then have them use the graphic organizer to identify details and a main idea for the rest of the class.

LESSON 1 SUPPORT FOR READING

Step-by-Step Strategy

1. Choose a section from the text that has at least two topics.
2. Ask students to read the text selection.
3. After students have finished reading, label the graphic organizer with the two topics and show it to the students.
4. Conduct a group brainstorming session in which students identify and you insert important details for the first topic and then for the second topic.
5. Ask students to identify a main idea that covers the details related to the first topic. Then ask for a main idea that covers the second topic.
6. End the lesson with a discussion comparing and contrasting the topics and main ideas.

LESSON 2 SUPPORT FOR WRITING

Step-by-Step Strategy

1. Use the graphic organizer to model the development of supporting details and main ideas with two different topics. The first topic could be a topic unrelated to your course of study, such as “food in the school cafeteria” or “the school band.” The second should be a topic related to the text.
2. Ask students to write a paragraph about a topic you choose for them or one they choose for themselves.
3. Give students the following format for their paragraph.
   - Introduce the general topic.
   - Develop the topic with three specific details.
   - Conclude the paper by stating the main idea.

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