



Most Important Sentence

Duration: 35-40 minutes | **Overview:** Students will identify the most important sentence in a text and transform it into a clear main idea statement

Materials:

- Nonfiction text of your choice
- Highlighter/pen/pencil

Steps:

Before the Activity:

1. Identify a text for students to read that relates to your curriculum & share it with students.
2. Share the strategy with students & let them know that today they'll be working to identify the text's most important sentence using these guiding questions:
 - a. What sentence could work as a headline?
 - b. If I could share only one sentence with someone, which would it be?
 - c. Which sentence is so essential that without it, the text would feel completely different?

During the Activity:

1. Ask students to read the text and make a star or an asterisk by any sentence that feels important as they read.
2. Then, ask students to choose one sentence that they feel best answers all three of the guiding questions.
3. Ask students to articulate the text's main idea based on the sentence they've selected. If they need support, share these sentence starters:
 - a. "This text wants readers to understand that..."
 - b. "The author argues that..."

After the Activity:

Quick Reflection

- a. "How did focusing on just one sentence change how you thought about the text?"
- b. "When might this strategy be useful in other classes or situations?"