Writing a Non-Fiction Objective Summary
Reflect back...

- We have already written objective summaries with our Narrative unit.
- What do you remember about those objective summaries? What did they include?
Think ahead...

• Now think about non-fiction.
• What do you think a non-fiction objective summary would need to include?
A non-fiction objective summary needs...

- The central idea
- Main ideas (reasons/points) from the beginning, middle, and end of the piece
- *Ignore specific supporting details!*
How should I format it?

- Start your summary out with a first sentence that follows this guideline:
  - **Title**, **author**, **verb**, **central idea**
  - Ex: “Michaela, Triumphant” by Kathy Satterfield tells the story of a young girl that overcame the great difficulty of being orphaned to achieve a new life.
Verbs to use

- tells
- shows
- describes
- explains
- discusses
- lists

- explores
- illustrates
- teaches
- compares

Never say “is about”! It’s weak.
Determining the main ideas/ reasons

• Look through the piece and pick out 3 to 6 key events/points that are important to the selection

• These points must be presented in chronological order

• Jot down the main points as you read; each point should be 5 words or less
Here is an example of how to take notes for your objective summary:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name it</th>
<th>Verb it</th>
<th>Central Idea</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“Michaela, Triumphant” by Kathy Satterfield</td>
<td>tells the story of</td>
<td>young girl overcame the difficulty of being orphaned to achieve a new life</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key events/points
- lived in an orphanage
- treated very badly
- dreamed of dancing
- got adopted
- became a dancer
Example of a summary

“Michaela, Triumphant” by Kathy Satterfield tells the story of a young girl that overcame the great difficulty of being orphaned to achieve a new life. Michaela is an orphan in war-torn Sierra Leone. She is treated very badly by the people that work at the orphanage. Despite this, Michaela held on to her dreams of becoming a dancer. She was eventually adopted by an American couple and was able to achieve her dreams of becoming a dancer.
Your assignment:

- In your group, you will read the article that has been provided.
- Complete the objective summary notes for that article, and write a summary that includes only the most important information.