The Bermuda Triangle

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the passage. Identify the central idea. Then write a short summary.

There is no official map of the Bermuda Triangle, and it is not an official geographic name. What is commonly called the Bermuda Triangle is an area in the Atlantic Ocean between Puerto Rico, Miami and Bermuda where ships, planes, and people have supposedly mysteriously vanished. People speculate many reasons for the unexplained disappearances, from extraterrestrials to more scientific explanations like oceanic flatulence (methane gas erupting from ocean sediments) and disruptions in geomagnetic lines of flux. But many, if not all, of the disappearances can be explained by environmental phenomenon. Most tropical storms and hurricanes in the Atlantic pass through the Bermuda Triangle, and before our modern weather forecasting techniques these storms were probably the reason for many lost ships. The Gulf Stream can also cause sudden, dangerous changes in weather. There are shallow areas around the islands where ships can run aground. There is also some evidence that the area is a place where “magnetic” compass sometimes points towards “true” north, instead of “magnetic” north. But there is no evidence that mysterious disappearances occur any more frequently in the Bermuda Triangle than at any other area of the ocean, and both the U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard deny that there are any supernatural explanations for the disappearance.

Central idea: ________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

Summary: ________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________