

Name _____ **Central Ideas Development**

Drug Testing in Middle School?



DIRECTIONS: Identify the central idea in the article and how it is developed. Identify the supporting ideas, and state how they relate to the central idea. Then summarize the article.

When 6th grader Jonas Walker went out for the school soccer team, he was told he would need to take a drug test. “We were appalled,” says his father. “Why are they giving drug tests to 6th graders? This isn’t the Olympics. And he’s not going to be playing for the Redskins.” But while most people would like to think that middle school is too young to think about drug-testing as a requirement for extra-curricular activities, according to Steve Klotz, assistant superintendent at Maryville School District in Missouri, “We have kids who are making those decisions.” Some coaches, teachers and school administrators support the drug-testing program. They feel that it serves as yet another way to deter kids from even considering drugs. From their perspective, the program is merely another layer in a drug prevention program that reaches wide and deep. So far there have been no cases of a middle school student testing positive for performance-enhancing drugs like steroids or human growth hormone, though the program has turned up some marijuana use, although those cases are rare. But, “It starts early with kids,” says Matthew Franz, owner of the drug testing company Sport Safe based in Columbus, Ohio. “You want to get in there and plant these seeds of what’s out there and do prevention early. The 11th and 12th graders, most of them have already made a choice. But the eighth graders, they’re still making decisions, and it helps if you give them that deterrent.”

1. What is the central idea?
2. What are the supporting ideas?
3. How do the supporting ideas relate to the central idea?