

TRACKING DOWN IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Crafting Session Tips:

(Zimmerman, Susan and Chryse Hutchins, *7 Keys to Comprehension*. New York: Three Rivers Press, 2003.)

- ❑ Determining importance has to do with knowing why you're reading and then making decisions about what information or ideas are most critical to understanding the overall meaning of the piece.
- ❑ Knowing your purpose for reading is a big factor in determining what's important when you read. It affects how carefully you read and has an impact on what you determine to be important.
- ❑ Noting text features helps you lift important information from text. Often the format of nonfiction text – for example, boxing information, boldfacing ideas, labeling picture – alerts you to importance.
- ❑ To determine importance, you consciously prioritize information to make decisions about what's essential and what is less essential.
- ❑ Reading to add background knowledge directs your search for important information.
- ❑ Launching a search to determine important information often starts with the generation of a question.
- ❑ Authors leave clues as to what they think is important to remember. Phrases like “as a result” and “in summary” alert you to watch for essential information.

Suggested Rubric:

(Harvey, Stephanie and Anne Goudvis, *The Comprehension Toolkit*. Portsmouth: FirstHand Heinemann, 2005.)

Oral and/or Written Evidence	Strong Evidence 3	Some Evidence 2	Little Evidence 1
Merges thinking, questions, and responses with the information			
Sorts and sifts the information to answer a question			
Codes the text to hold thinking, paraphrase, and record important information			
Separates interesting details from bigger ideas and Important information			
Distinguishes between the reader's perspective and the author's perspective			
Identifies and uses supporting details to come up with bigger ideas			