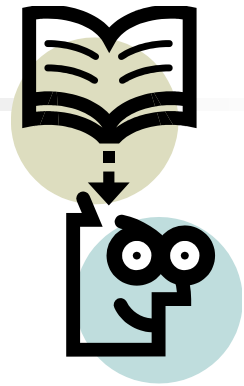


Finding the Main Idea In Non-Fiction Passages

“How to Read Smarter”



EQ: How do I identify stated or implied **main ideas** in non-fiction texts?

EQ: How do I identify stated or **supporting details** ideas in non-fiction texts?



Main Idea is:

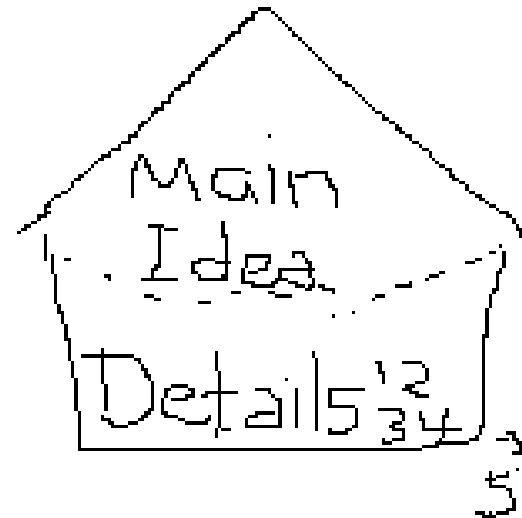


- The **Big point** writer is communicating
- Often main idea **in the title**
- For example: “Why Doctors Deserve More Dollars” will include reasons for that idea

Main Idea:

Main idea is like a roof.

- Big enough to include everything in the text.
- Not too big of an idea for the text.





Main Idea



- **Main Idea** - is like the heart of the text or a paragraph.
- All supporting details in the text should tell us more about the main idea.

General Versus Specific

- Main idea = **general**
- Supporting ideas = **specific**

Which word is the most general:

Potato or Vegetable?





Fresh Foods



General

Vegetables

- Carrots
- Corn
- Broccoli
- Green Beans

Fruit

- Bananas
- Apples
- Strawberries
- Peaches
- Cherries



General



Specific

What is the topic?

- General subject of the text
- To find the topic, just ask yourself: “Who or what is this passage about?”
- Can be expressed in a word or a phrase.

Example: Fluency story you are reading - what is the topic?



WHO?

The Topic Sentence



- Topic sentence indicates what it's about

Find the topic sentence in this paragraph:

Homeless people have many problems. In winter, it's hard to stay warm and it gets too hot in summer. It's also hard to keep things safe without a home. Worst is the lack of privacy.

The Topic Sentence



- Topic sentence indicates what it's about

Find the topic sentence in this paragraph:

Homeless people have many problems.

In winter, it's hard to stay warm and it gets too hot in summer. It's also hard to keep things safe without a home. Worst is the lack of privacy.



Supporting Details

The details of the main idea tell us:

- Who
- What
- When
- Where
- Why



Supporting Details

- Supporting details prove the value of the main idea. What are they here?

Homeless people have many problems. In winter, it's hard to stay warm and it gets too hot in summer. It's also hard to keep things safe without a home. Worst is the lack of privacy.



Supporting Details

- Supporting details prove the value of the main idea. What are they here?

Homeless people have many problems. In winter, it's hard to stay warm and it gets too hot in summer. It's also hard to keep things safe without a home. Worst is the lack of privacy.

Get the Point?



- Read this short paragraph:

Engineers create wealth for society. So, tennis is a game and the resources of the earth are scarce. Have you gone mad? Thus the only solution is to educate the public on being socially responsible.

Get the Point?



- *Crazy!!!!*
- Why was it difficult to understand?
- Different ideas that did not link. There was no common thread.
- **The good news is that normal passages have main ideas!**



Summarize

- Main Idea
 - **The big idea or common thread that holds things together**
 - General ideas
 - Not a detail
 - Not specific



Summarize

- Supporting Details
 - **Common facts that help us explain the main idea**
 - Specific items
 - All point to one main idea



Summarize

Supporting Detail

+ *Supporting Detail*

+ *Supporting Detail*

+ *Supporting Detail*

= **Main Idea**