Mr. Kahly’s Classroom
Today’s Topic:
Main Ideas & Supporting Details

Go through audio setup.
Take a look at this for kicks and giggles

CALVIN, CAN YOU TELL US WHAT LEWIS AND CLARK DID?
No but I can tell you everything about Ferrari and his battle with Ford, what would you like to know?
SEE ME AFTER CLASS, CALVIN.
I’M NOT DUMB. I JUST HAVE A COMMAND OF THOROUGHLY USELESS INFORMATION.
COMMON QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. Do I have to stay for this class if I already earned a blue ribbon for the subject?
   A. Yes

2. What if I missed a class?
   A. Go back to the class you missed and click on it. There should be a recording available.

3. How can I get a copy of your notes?
   A. I will send it to you now.
Main Idea & Supporting Details

Wash Publishing Co. 2009
Main Idea

- The main idea is the “big point” or the most important idea that the writer is communicating to the reader.
- Often the reader can find the main idea just by looking at the title.
- For example, a passage titled: “Why Students Should Have Less Homework” will include reasons for that idea.

Reader’s Journey page 178

Wash Publishing Co. 2009
What’s 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.

DID THIS MAKE SENSE?????
OF COURSE NOT!!

• It didn’t have a MAIN IDEA!
• We would go crazy if texts were written like this all the time.
• It was difficult to understand because it was made of different ideas that did not link. There was no common thread.
• The good news is that normal passages have main ideas!
Main Idea

• **Main Idea** - is like the heart of the text or a paragraph.
• It is the controlling idea.
• All the other supporting details in the text or within a paragraph should tell us more about the main idea.
Ask Yourself??.

Ask Yourself....

WHO or WHAT is this passage about?”

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The Topic Sentence

• Many paragraphs have topic sentences that indicate the main idea.
• 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

- 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.
Stated and Implied Main Idea...

- Sometimes, a paragraph has a stated main idea usually in the topic sentence. This means the paragraph “says” what the main idea is.
- Sometimes, a paragraph doesn’t have a stated main idea, but has an “implied” main idea. This means that you need to state the main idea in your own words because it doesn’t actually “say” it in the paragraph. Let’s take a look at two examples...
“The students had fun on their field trip. They Visited the Marine Museum. They were able to tour a tug boat and they bought souvenirs in the gift shop. After the tours they ate a picnic lunch in the park and played with their friends.”

The underlined portion of the sentence is the main idea and is stated for the reader.
“The Native Americans used the trees to build their houses. They hunted and trapped animals in the forest for food. They found roots and berries that they could eat. Some plants found in the forest were used for medicine.”

In this paragraph, the main idea isn’t stated. However, by reading the paragraph, the reader can determine the main idea: Native Americans used resources in the forest to survive.
Too much information??

- All of the sentences in a paragraph should **support** the main idea of that paragraph.
- Information that does not support the main idea does not belong in the same paragraph.
- Take a look at the example on the next slide. Find the “extra” information that does not support the main idea...
“Maria offered to help her mother clean the house. She vacuumed the living room and dusted the furniture. She picked up the toys in the playroom. She ate a ham sandwich for lunch. Then, she mopped the kitchen floor.”

Which sentence does not support the main idea?
Find the sentence that does not support the main idea?

“Winter provides the opportunity for many outdoor activities. Many people enjoy ice skating on a pond. Swimming in the pond in summer can also be fun. Skiing can be a thrilling experience too. After a new snowfall, you can even build a snowman!”
"The rain forest is home to many creatures. Monkeys, toucans and macaws live in the rain forest. Butterflies and anteaters also live in the rain forest."

What is the main idea?
A. Sloths and tapirs are creatures that live in the rainforest.
B. The rainforest is home to many creatures.
C. Monkeys, toucans and macaws live in the rainforest.
Try another…

“Soccer players learn many skills when playing soccer. Soccer players learn how to dribble and pass the ball. They also learn how to control the ball so they can eventually score. Most importantly, soccer players learn how to work together with their teammates.”

What is the main idea?
A. They also learn how to control the ball so they can eventually score.
B. Soccer players learn how to dribble.
C. Soccer players learn many skills when playing soccer.
Let’s do one more…

“Swimming is one thing that can be done at the beach. Snorkeling is another thing that can be enjoyed. Playing beach volleyball can be a lot of fun. It is also fun to look for shells. Some people simply like to sunbathe.”

What is the implied main idea?