



Main Idea

Can you answer these questions about a written piece's **main idea**? Check your answers when you're finished and review what you missed so you can learn.

A main idea is...

- a. the general topic
- b. the specific point being made about the topic
- c. a supporting detail

The main idea is reinforced by...

- a. supporting details
- b. statements of opinion
- c. good grammar

What might be the main idea in an essay on smoking?

- a. smoking
- b. cigarettes
- c. smoking is bad for your health

Where is the main idea most often in a paragraph?

- a. in the first sentence
- b. in the middle
- c. in the last sentence

What's a good way to find the main idea of something you're reading?

- a. ask yourself general questions about what you've read
- b. only read the piece once
- c. memorize the piece

Which statement is true about main ideas?

- a. they are always factual
- b. they need to have good supporting details
- c. they should be stated first