

The Main Idea

What is the Main Idea?

- **The Main Idea is what the author says about the subject**
- **It is the purpose of the passage**
- **It is the main point the author is trying to make**

How do you find the Main Idea?

- **First, look at the title of the piece**
- **Look at the first and last sentences**
- **Then, look at the topic sentences of each paragraph**
- **After, look at the important details the author is trying to show you about the topic in each paragraph**

What if the Main Idea is not stated directly?

- **If it is not stated directly, you need to infer (guess) it from all the other sentences**
- **You have to decide what subjects most of the sentences are about**
- **Then, you need to ask yourself what the sentences say about the subject**

Remember not to get the supporting details confused with the Main Idea

- **The Supporting details are more specific and give you examples or information about the topic/Main Idea**
- **Also remember that Reading Actively will help you find the Main Idea**
- **It is helpful to ask yourself what you are reading about**