

Goal: Reading – Comprehension
(I can understand what I read)

Skill: ID Main Idea

Strategy: Implied vs Stated Main Idea

Implied vs Stated Main Idea Strategy Sheet

What is it?

A main idea is the central point or thought the author wants to communicate to readers. A stated main idea is a sentence that explicitly states the point the author is trying to communicate. Conversely, an implied main idea is not explicitly stated; the reader needs to come up with a sentence on their own that sums up what the author is trying to communicate.

Steps to finding a stated main idea:

1. Find the topic first. What is the text mainly about?
2. Ask yourself “What does the author want me to know about this topic?”
3. Read to see if the author explicitly states what they want you to know. Start by reading the first and last sections of the text.
4. Once you think you have found the main idea, read it to see if it could be used as a summary of the whole text.



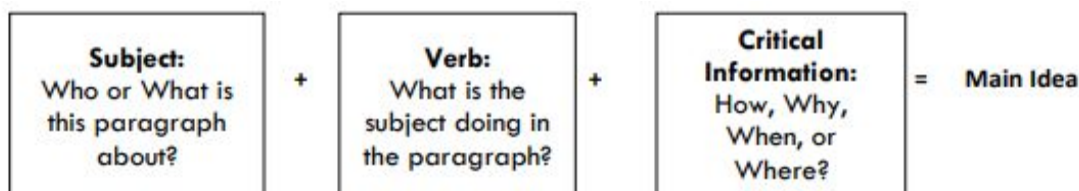
Implied Main Idea

If the main idea is not stated directly, it will be hinted at, or implied. If this is the case, complete the steps above, and then do the following:

1. Mark the text, identifying any words or ideas that are repeated, either explicitly or in different ways.
2. Think of a general statement that could sum up the specifics of the text.



Use the formula below to craft your main idea statement:



What does the final product look like?

The final product is a sentence that states the subject of the text, what the subject is doing, and critical information such as how, why, when, or where.