

Lesson 9: How to Find the Main Idea of an Essay

Purpose of Lesson 9: You will learn **Part C** of **The ABC's of Prewriting**: Organize your Ideas and Information. This will help you find the main idea of an essay.

Skills: Reading comprehension, vocabulary, and writing.



How are you doing so far? Now, let's see how Dora and the class are doing. I think she is ready to start **Part C** of **The ABC's of Prewriting**. She has asked Ms. Shine to meet with her. She has some questions.

1



I'm glad you came to see me. Now you and the class are ready for **Part C** of **The ABC's of Prewriting**: Organize your Ideas and Information. Let's start by reviewing the information you gathered in **Part B** of **The ABC's of Prewriting**. Ask yourself, "what it is mostly about?" You can now come up with the **main idea for the essay**.

2

My brainstorm list was:
Small, cute, old, female,
dirty, hungry, hurt,
needs a home, friendly,
brown, cold, lost,
scared, expensive,
responsibility, floppy
ears, Lucy.



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3

It looks like my information was about finding and helping Lucy.



4

Exactly, finding and helping Lucy is the main idea of your essay.



5

That was kind of easy because I am so familiar with the topic. Can you give me more practice on this part of the writing process; finding the main idea of an essay?



Good suggestion, Dora! Ms. Shine wants everyone to look at the Brainstorm Lists below and select the main idea of the essay. Remember Ms. Shine's advice to review the information in the list and then come up with the main idea for the essay. The answers for the first four practice exercises are provided. Try your best!

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Continued after Lesson 9 Quiz 1



Your turn: *Find and write your own main idea after reviewing the Brainstorm Lists below.* Ms. Shine will provide you with a possible good answer. There is no one single answer that is acceptable. In fact, there can be several answers that are good. Compare your answer to Ms. Shine's answer to see if it is similar. Be sure to ask your teacher if you need more help.