

# Lesson Plan 1: Identifying the Main Idea of Informational Text

How do we teach students to determine the central idea of a text?

## Objectives:

- Students will understand the concept of a main idea in nonfiction text.
- Students will be able to follow a set of steps (automatically employed by good readers) to identify the main idea in an article.
- Students will practice identification of the main idea in news articles about science and social studies topics.
- Students will be able to identify and state the main idea of informational text.

## CCSS addressed:

RI.9-10.2 Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.

## Materials:

Newsela articles (<https://newsela.com>), chart paper, markers, student paper and pens (Optional: projected article)

## Procedure:

This lesson draws on skills you may or may not have taught or skills students may or may not be familiar with.

- *Main Idea*

**Begin the lesson by Introduce the topic –*Main Idea***

*Ask students what do they know or have heard about the words “main Idea” ask them to share what they know or have hear about the words, main idea.*

**Chart student’s responses and let them know that you will revisit the chart throughout the course of the lesson.**

Ask the discussion question: *What is the purpose of reading?*

Lead the class in discuss around the question above

Present text on 10 purposes for reading and assigned pairs 1 reason. (can use the Jigsaw protocol)

What of the purpose of reading: Debrief 10 Reason article, chart student's responses

Refer back to brainstorm chart compiled earlier and discuss similarities and differences

Next, state the goal for this lesson: To identify the Main Idea of a text

Explain what "Main Idea" means

- **Main idea-** (The **main idea** is the point of the paragraph. It is the most important thought about the topic. To figure out the **main idea**, ask yourself this question: What is being said about the person, thing, or **idea** (the topic)? The author can locate the **main idea** in different places within a paragraph.)
- **Model:** (Explain that has you model, they should take notes on what they notice you are doing). Say: we will debrief at the end of my modeling on what you noticed)
- Take text: Will a test on U.S. citizenship help make people better citizens?
- Say out loud: what is the first thing I will do:
  - Look at the bold print at the top of the page (title)
  - Now I will read and analyze title, ask questions, look back for text for clarification, re-read title
  - I will also look at pictures
    - Who is in the picture?
    - What is in the picture?
    - Look at captions, and try to understand the relationship to the title
- Look at the paragraph/sections of text
  - Subtitles- how do they connect to the title and each other
  - Re-read the title to make connections to the article
- Read each paragraph
  - After reading each paragraph, summarize and make connections to previous sections of text.
- Summarize the article

- By asking the question: What is the main idea? What is this article mainly about?
- State the main idea

Debrief/Review the process – chart collective notes to be displayed in the classroom for future use.

**Ask the question:** *what process did you observe me using?* Chart After the debrief/review session

### **Try It On Your Own:**

In Triads – use the text given; go through the process that was modeled. Use the notes captured on the chart paper to guide your work.

Debrief:

- Ask students to share what it was like?