

Main Idea and Evidence Guide



TEAM QUEST

Quick Reminder

Do not consider every sentence as equally important

First find the point, then look for the support

01 What is a main idea

The main idea is the most important point the author wants the reader to understand. It is the central message, claim, or argument of a paragraph, section, or whole text.

02 What is evidence

Evidence is the information the author uses to support the main idea. This may include:

- * Examples
- * Facts
- * Data
- * Research Findings
- * Quotations
- * Explanations
- * Case studies

03 What is the difference

The **main idea** tells you what the author is saying.

The **evidence** tells you how the author supports it.

A simple way to think about it is:

- * Main idea = the point
- * Evidence = the support

04 How to identify the main idea

Ask yourself:

- * What is the author mainly trying to say?
- * If I had to explain this paragraph in one sentence, what would I say?
- * Which sentence seems to carry the key message?

05 How to identify the evidence

Ask yourself:

- * What examples or facts are used here?
- * Does the author mention a study, statistic, case, or explanation?
- * Which information is being used to support the main point?

06 Quick Example

Main idea: Group work can help students develop communication skills.

Evidence: A study found that students who completed collaborative tasks reported higher confidence in speaking and teamwork.

In this example, the main idea is the claim.
The evidence is the study used to support that claim.