MAIN IDEAS

* The main idea is the **central**, or **most important**, idea in a paragraph or passage.
* It **states the purpose** and **sets the direction** of the paragraph or passage.
* The main idea may be **stated** or it may be **implied**. (said or unsaid)
* When the main idea of a paragraph is stated, it is most often **found in the first**
* **sentence** of the paragraph.
* However, the main idea may be **found in any sentence of the paragraph.**
* The main idea may be **stated** in the **first sentence** of a paragraph and then be **repeated or restated** at the **end** of the paragraph.
* The main idea **may be split**. The **first** sentence of a paragraph may present a **point of view**, while the **last** sentence presents a **contrasting or opposite view.**

**To find the main idea** of any paragraph or passage, ask these **questions:**

**1. Who or what is the paragraph about?**

**2. What aspect or idea about the ‘who’ or ‘what’ is the author concerned with?**