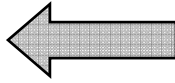


Finding the Topic Sentence (a.k.a. Main Idea)

What's the topic?

Look for a sentence that includes the topic & makes a point about it.



This always works.

- Look for something interesting.
- Look for something that may give the results of a study.
- Look for a sentence that can stand alone and state the whole paragraph's main idea.



Here are other hints that **MAY** work:



...however, **Main Idea**

However,
But,
Yet,
Nevertheless,
Though,

Contrast word in MI sentence

Main Idea **First,**

1st Supporting Detail

One example...
For instance,...

Look right in front of the first supporting detail

Main Idea

The paragraph turns out to be one big example (supporting detail).

and/or **Main Idea**

Evidently, Clearly, Obviously, Thus,...

TS ...^^^...^^^...^^^...
or
...^^^...^^^...^^^... **TS**

Summarizes

TS

If there are 2 topic sentences, 1st is in the beginning-2nd is at end

TS...

many advantages
two causes
some methods
four steps
various ways

Look for list words (in the topic sentence).

...^^^...? ^^...^^...?

... **Main Idea**

Questions get your interest; then you're told the MI