

Name _____ Date _____

Main Idea and Details

Focus

- The **main idea**, usually found in a topic sentence, should be clear and focused.

A main idea should have supporting details.

- **Details** support the main idea and provide additional information about it.

Practice

Read each paragraph below. Underline the topic sentence that contains the main idea of each paragraph.

1. A dog can really be your best friend. It listens to you complain and never talks back. It is always there, tail wagging. It does not ask for much but gives back a lot.
2. The last day of school is both a happy and a sad day. It is great to know the long, carefree summer vacation is ahead of you. It is also exciting to know you finished another year. On the other hand, you realize you will not see most of your friends for many weeks. It is a sad feeling to leave the room and the teacher you know so well. Also, it is a bit scary when you think about next year.
3. Think about how your meal will look and taste. Make sure you pick soft as well as crunchy food. Also make sure your food is not all one color. For example, you may want to choose a meat, such as chicken. Then, prepare a green salad. Add a vegetable. Carrots will be a nice contrast to the green salad. Finish your meal with a chilled fruit cup. That is how you plan a good meal.