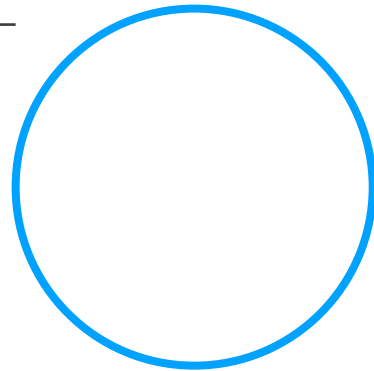


# MAIN IDEA IDENTIFICATION

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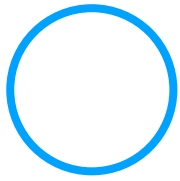
READING STRATEGIES

PROF. BRUNO DE AZEVEDO



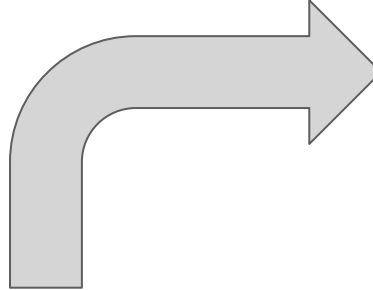


# WHY MAIN IDEAS?

-  Summarizing is part of human nature.
  -  Our memory cannot store all the information it receives.
  -  Sometimes the details are not important.
- 
- 



## Sample Reading Passage



## TOPIC SENTENCE

**Left-handed people suffer more from stress than their right-handed peers,** according to a study of 1,100 adults by University of Michigan researchers. As a result, they smoke and drink more. Fifty-five percent of the lefties smoked, whereas fewer than half of the righties smoked. Furthermore, the lefties consumed more alcohol per year than their right-handed counterparts.

Notice that in this paragraph, it was the **first sentence** that told you the main idea. This sentence, called a **“topic sentence,”** usually appears at the **beginning.**


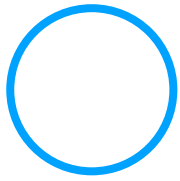
Sometimes, however, the paragraph’s main idea is expressed in the last sentence, and sometimes readers must determine the main idea of a paragraph by summarizing the author’s message themselves.



# TEXT STRUCTURE

- A text is generally contains paragraphs.
- Each paragraph has a dominant idea which is developed and grounded by following sentences

## REPETINDO:

- Cada parágrafo tem uma ideia dominante que é desenvolvida e embasada pelas sentenças que se seguem.
- 
- 

# Uma ideia é importante quando:

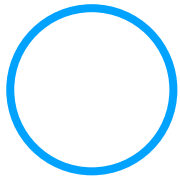

(Kintsch, 1998; van Dijk & Kintsch, 1983)

- Está no **título**
- Está marcada com sinais gráficos como tamanho da fonte, cor, negrito, itálico
- É acompanhada por sinais lexicais como "**importante**" "**relevante**", "**para concluir...**", "**o principal...**"
- É reiterada por meio de paráfrases e expressões como "**em outras palavras**", "**ou seja**"
- É **explicada**, desenvolvida em detalhe ao longo do parágrafo (isso quer dizer...)
- Está mais saliente em comparação às outras ideias do texto – **hierarquia** (Kintsch & van Dijk, 1978)
- Estabelece relações de **causa/consequência** com outras ideias do texto (Trabasso & Suh, 1993)



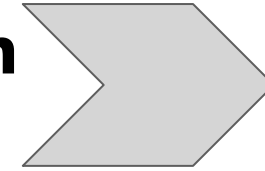
# IDEIA **DOMINANTE** DO PARÁGRAFO

Cada **parágrafo** geralmente apresenta uma ideia principal, que geralmente é apresentada na **primeira ou segunda sentenças de cada parágrafo.**





**You ought to know what to do to help a person who is choking.**



**MAIN  
IDEA**

**First**, you stand behind the choking victim and put your arms around his or her waist. **Second**, you make a fist and place the thumb side against the person's stomach just above the navel, but below the ribs. **Third**, grasp your fist with your other hand and press into the victim's abdomen with a quick upward thrust. Repeat this action if necessary.



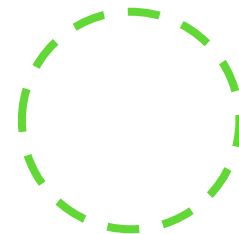
**SUPPORTING  
DETAILS**



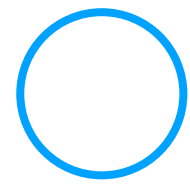


Ideia dominante do parágrafo

Na prática



- Leia o 'sample reading passage 3' and answer the questions.







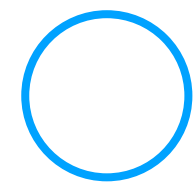
# Ideia dominante do parágrafo

## Na prática



- Answers:

1. The correct answer is (C).
2. The correct answer is (B).
3. The correct answer is (D).



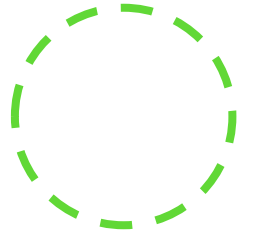



# **MACRORRULES FOR MAIN IDEA IDENTIFICATION**

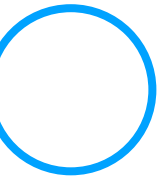


# Macrorules for Summarizing Texts

(Brown & Day, 1983 apud Tomitch, 2012)



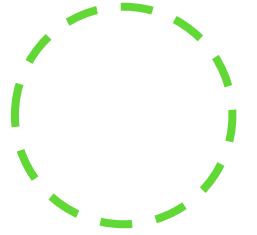
1. **Deletion of trivial information** - eliminate unimportant information/ minor details about the topics.
  2. **Deletion of redundant information** - eliminate rewordings/restatements of the more important sentences.
  3. **Superordination of lists** - use superordinate terms to substitute for lists of category members.
- 




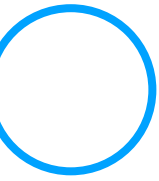


# Macrorules for Summarizing Texts

(Brown & Day, 1983 apud Tomitch, 2012)



4. **Selection of a topic sentence** - select the sentence which is the author's summary of the main constituent of the text-the paragraph.
  5. **Invention of a topic sentence** - provide a summary of the paragraph - a topic sentence - if it is not explicitly stated/invent your own.
- 

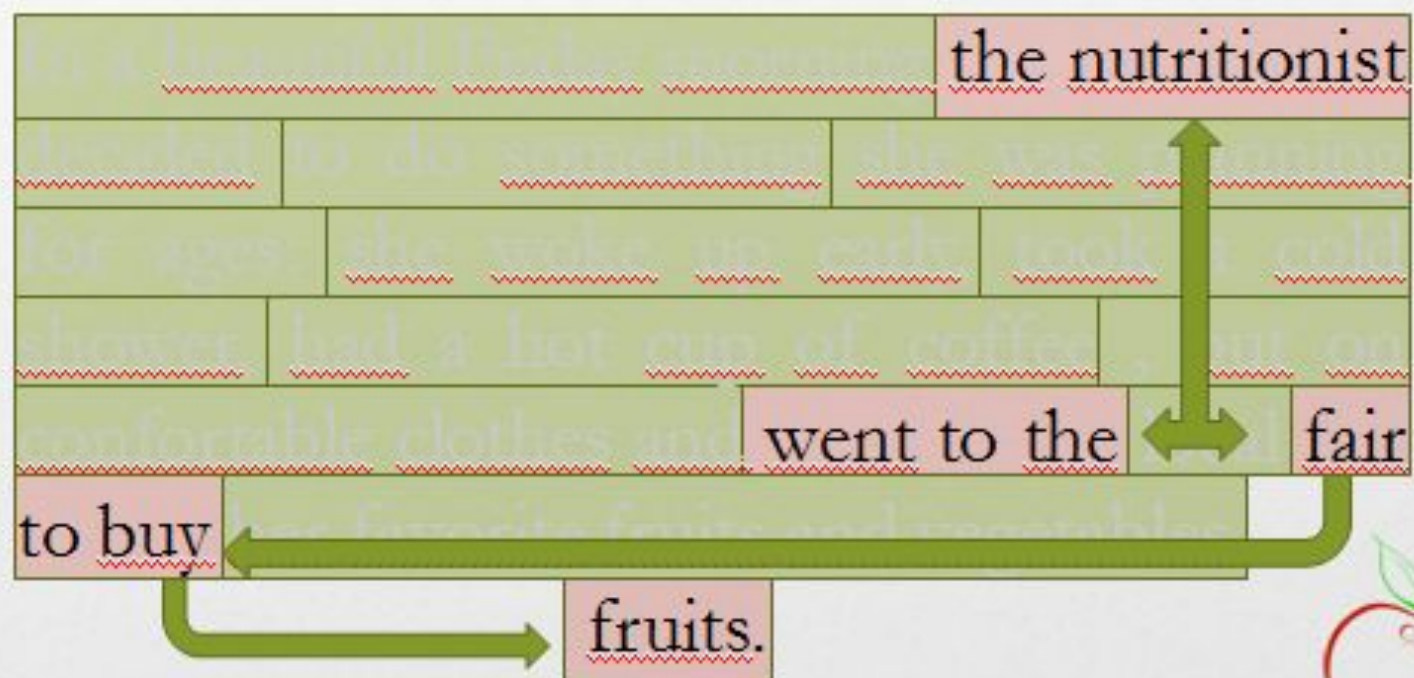


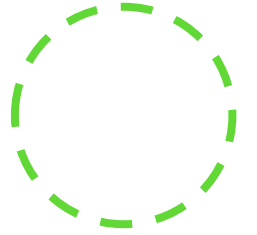
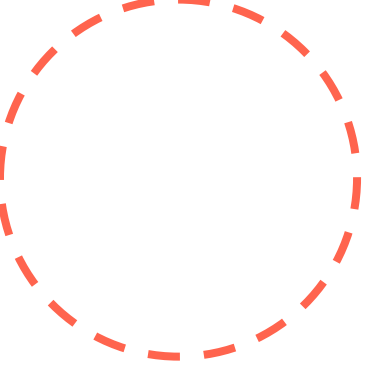
# Propositions

In a beautiful Friday morning the nutritionist decided to do something she was planning for ages: she woke up early, took a cold shower, had a hot cup of coffee, put on comfortable clothes and went to the local fair to buy her favorite fruits and vegetables.



## The macrostructure of the text

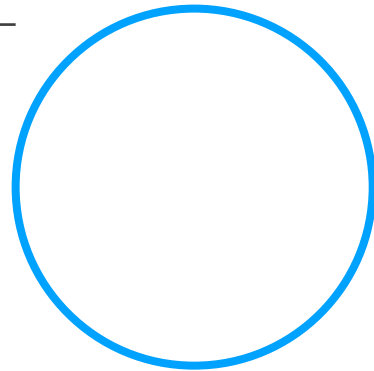




# THE MAIN IDEA STRATEGY

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BOUDAH (2013)





# THINK ABOUT IT

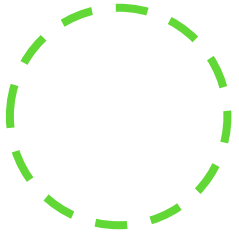

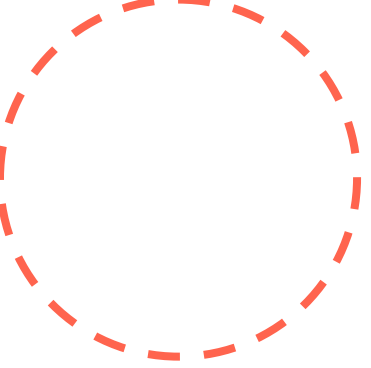


What is the difference between **topic** and **main idea**?



What is the difference between **essential details** and **clarifying details**?





# What is the difference between topic and main idea?

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[HTTPS://WWW.MOMETRIX.COM/ACADEMY/TOPICS-AND-MAIN-IDEAS/](https://www.mometrix.com/academy/topics-and-main-ideas/)



●  
●  
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EXAMPLE :  
READ THE FOLLOWING  
SENTENCES AND ANSWER :

- ☐ What are these sentences all about?
- ☐ What's the topic?
- ☐ What is the authors saying 'between the lines'?

*Lions are large animals.*

*Lions have big teeth.*

*Lions are predators.*





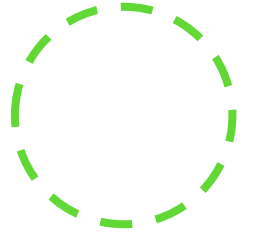
## READ THE PARAGRAPH:

Lions are large animals. They often weigh over 800 pounds. Lions are often called predators. They typically will stalk and find live prey. Lions also have large teeth. They use their teeth to kill and eat other animals for survival.

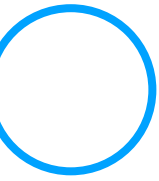


●  
●  
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LIONS ARE LARGE ANIMALS. THEY OFTEN WEIGH OVER 800 POUNDS. LIONS ARE OFTEN CALLED PREDATORS. THEY TYPICALLY WILL STALK AND FIND LIVE PREY. LIONS ALSO HAVE LARGE TEETH. THEY USE THEIR TEETH TO KILL AND EAT OTHER ANIMALS FOR SURVIVAL.



- ❑ The three sentences previously shown (in bold) are embedded in a paragraph much like sentences you would read in a text.
  - ❑ Those previous three sentences represent the essential details and the other sentences (now included in the paragraph) are clarifying details.
- 







# CRITICAL DEFINITIONS OF MAIN IDEA (BOUDAH, 2013)



## Topic

- what the paragraph is about
- the subject, like in a sentence
- made up of just one or two words

## Details

- the specifics or examples about the topic
- explain or prove the main idea
- two types: essential and clarifying

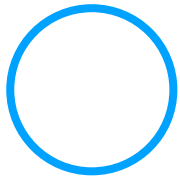
## Essential Details

- directly related to the topic
- say something specific about the topic

## Clarifying Details

- say something more about one of the other (essential) details
- do not say something specific about the topic

## Main Idea

- the most important thing being said about the topic
  - “gist” or “big idea” statement
  - like a title of the paragraph
  - answers the question: What is the main thing being said about the topic?
  - A statement of the main idea is made up of words that relate the details to the topic. (The topic is mentioned in the main idea statement.)
- 

## Topic

- what the paragraph is about
- the subject, like in a sentence
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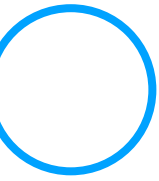
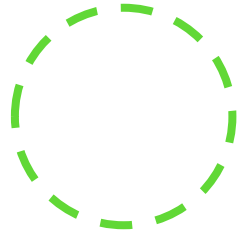
TOPIC

MAIN IDEA

DETAILS

ESSENTIAL  
DETAILS

CARIFYING  
DETAILS





# THE MAIN IDEA STRATEGY

**M**ake the topic known

**A**ccent at least two essential details

**I**nk out the clarifying details

**N**otice how the essential details are related

**I**nfer the main idea









# STEP 1 - MAKE THE TOPIC KNOWN



## ***What is the difference between main idea and topic?***

-  This difference is the first thing to have in mind.
-  This step calls for reading a paragraph or passage and looking for common terms or names that might indicate the topic.
-   You must decide on the one-word or short phrase that represents the topic.

**M**ake the topic known

**A**ccent at least two essential details

**I**nk out the clarifying details

**N**otice how the essential details are related

**I**nter the main idea







## STEP 2 – ACCENT AT LEAST TWO ESSENTIAL DETAILS



**□ What is the difference between an essential detail and a clarifying detail?**

**□** This step requires that you recognize at least two essential details in a paragraph or passage that relate to or say something important about the identified topic.

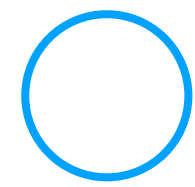
**M**ake the topic known

**A**ccent at least two essential details

**I**nk out the clarifying details

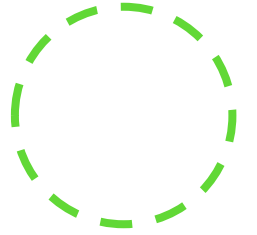
**N**otice how the essential details are related

**I**nfer the main idea





## STEP 3 – INK OUT THE CLARIFYING DETAILS



Draw a line through sentences or phrases that are clarifying details, or mark them with a different color highlighter pen than that used for identifying essential details.

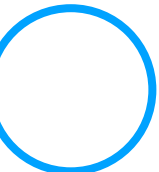
**M**ake the topic known

**A**ccent at least two essential details

**I**nk out the clarifying details

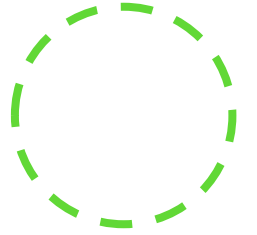
**N**otice how the essential details are related

**I**nfer the main idea





## STEP 4 – NOTICE HOW THE ESSENTIAL DETAILS ARE RELATED



***Look at the essential details and answer these questions:***

- ☐ How do these sentences go together?
- ☐ What is the author saying about the topic “between the lines”?
- ☐ Do these sentences give us examples or characteristics of an important point about the topic?
- ☐ What is the “big idea” or point made in these sentences?
- ☐ What’s the main idea?

**M**ake the topic known

**A**ccent at least two essential details

**I**nk out the clarifying details

**N**otice how the essential details are related

**I**nter the main idea



# Your Turn

See the Diagram Example, Read the text and complete the diagram.



# REFERÊNCIAS

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