**Looking for the Main Idea**

**רעיון מרכזי של מאמר – נמצא אותו בפסקת / פסקאות הפתיחה או בפסקת / פסקאות הסיכום.**

**הכותרת מרמזת על הרעיון המרכזי.**

**רעיון מרכזי של מאמר – הוא משהו כללי (הכללה) שכולל בתוכו במשפט או שניים את הרעיון המובע במאמר, את הסיבה שלשמה נכתב המאמר.**

**לכל פסקה במאמר רעיון מרכזי משלה** - רעיון שמתקשר אל הכותרת ואל הרעיון המרכזי של המאמר (המפורט בפסקה הראשונה).

**כיצד נזהה רעיון מרכזי של פסקה**?

**לפי המיקום בפסקה** - הרעיון המרכזי יכול להופיע במשפט ראשון, במשפט אחרון או במשפט 2-3 הרבה פעמים לאחר מילת קישור.

כל פסקה בנויה מרעיון מרכזי ודוגמאות שממחישות ומסבירות אותו. אנו יכולים למצוא את הרעיון המרכזי **על ידי זיהוי הדוגמאות והפרדתן מהרעיון המרכז**

**כיצד מזהים דוגמאות בקריאה מרפרפת**?

  מספרים, אחוזים

 אותיות גדולות

 סימני פיסוק כגון פסיקים (יופיעו בין דוגמאות),  נקודותיים :  ומקף - לאחריהם יופיעו הסברים,  () סוגריים שבתוכם מופיע הסבר, מרכאות " "

In addition, also, moreover…..-  מילות קישור של הוספה

first, second, third, then..…..-  מילות קישור של סדר

for example, for instance, e.g. …..-  מילות קישור של הדגמה

Sample Questions:

1. What do the examples in paragraph 2 illustrate/show/demonstrate?
2. Why was X mentioned/discussed? ("x" is an example of a main point)
3. According to this paragraph, x, y and z are examples of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. What is the main idea / main point / major point of this paragraph?
5. What is the writer's purpose in writing this article?

Helpful phrases to find answers: for example, for instance, demonstrate, show, point out, illustrate

Exercises:

**Text A:** The study confirmed what is already known: Drug use among travelers in the Far East is significantly higher than among the same age group in Israel. Some 62.1 percent of the young people said that they used cannabis (hashish and marijuana), as opposed to 5.6 percent in Israel; some 33.8 percent said they used so-called “hard” drugs (including LSD, ecstasy, speed, opium, cocaine, and heroin), as opposed to 1.2 percent in Israel.

**Question A:** What idea do the statistics in the above paragraph support?

\_ Drug use among travelers in the Far East is significantly higher than among the same age group in Israel

**Text B:** Every culture has developed preferences for certain kinds of food and drink, and equally strong negative attitudes towards others. It is interesting to note that much of this ethnocentrism is in our heads and not in our tongues, for something can taste delicious until we are told what it is. We have all heard stories about people being fed a meal of snake or horse meat or something equally repugnant in American culture and commenting on how tasty it was--until they were told what they had just eaten; as a result, they turned green and hurriedly asked to be excused from the table.

**Question B:** What point is illustrated by the examples of meals of snake and horse meat? **Every culture has developed preferences for certain kinds of food and drink, and equally strong negative attitudes towards others**

**Text C:** Some doctors and social critics cannot help noticing that so many of the childhood syndromes now being diagnosed in record numbers affect far more boys than girls. Attention deficit disorder, said to afflict 5 percent of all children, is thought to be about three to four times more common in boys than girls. Dyslexia is thought to be about four times more prevalent in boys than girls; and boys practically have the patent on conduct disorders.

**Question C:** The information in the above paragraph illustrates the idea that **So many of the childhood syndromes now being diagnosed in record numbers affect far more boys than girls**

**Text D:** Meanwhile, the bureaucracy that accompanies a lot of aid is just as crippling. The African country of Tanzania is reportedly burdened with preparing 2,400 reports each quarter and hosting 1,000 meetings with donors annually -- no doubt at great cost. … Robert Calderisi cites a US$300-million malaria project in which one cent of each dollar spent went to medicine, one cent to insecticides, six cents to mosquito nets, and 92 cents to training, research, administration and evaluation, most of which returned to Western donor countries in the pockets of consultants.

**Question D:** What do the Tanzania and malaria project examples illustrate?

**The bureaucracy that accompanies a lot of aid is just as crippling**

**Text E:** Most coffee drinkers think of their morning cup of coffee as containing little more than hot water, caffeine and coffee flavor. It's true that caffeine is responsible for many of coffee's health effects, both good and ill. But that's hardly the whole story; there are other beneficial ingredients in coffee. In 2005, for example, newspaper headlines promoted the finding that coffee is the number-one source of antioxidants in the US diet.

Less publicized was the more recent finding that for most US adults, coffee is the main dietary source of many minerals, including the trace element boron. An essential nutrient for plants, boron may also prove beneficial to humans.

**Question E:** Why does the author mention antioxidants and minerals?

**Base his point that there are other beneficial ingredients in coffee**