Finding Main Ideas

Student Handout

Lesson 1

**Directions**: Identify the key details and topic sentence for each paragraph. Then use them to describe the paragraph’s main idea.

Paragraph #\_\_\_:

**Details**

**Topic Sentence**

**Main Idea**

Paragraph #\_\_\_:

**Details**

**Topic Sentence**

**Main Idea**

Paragraph #\_\_\_:

**Details**

**Topic Sentence**

**Main Idea**

Paragraph #\_\_\_:

**Details**

**Topic Sentence**

**Main Idea**

Paragraph #\_\_\_:

**Details**

**Topic Sentence**

**Main Idea**

The Road to the Central Idea

Student Handout

Lesson 2

**Directions**: Complete the road map by filling in the main ideas and supporting details to help you get to the central idea.

Destination (the central idea):

Main Idea #5:

Main Idea #4:

Supporting Details:

Supporting Details:

Supporting Details:

Supporting Details:

Supporting Details:

Main Idea #1:

Main Idea #3:

Main Idea #2:

Summarizing an Informational Text

Student Handout

Lesson 3

**Directions**:

1. Write five to ten key words. The words should support the central idea.
2. Use the words to tell your partner the gist of the text. Have your partner take notes.
3. Label the 5Ws and 1H in your partner’s notes.
4. Write a summary of the text on a separate piece of paper.

**Notes by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Key Words**