



Determining the Central Idea of a Text

What do you mean by central idea?

Central idea is also known as main idea.

Definition: The central idea (main idea) in a piece of writing is the point that the author wants you to remember most.

Some writers may state the main idea, but it is often implied, which means the reader has to make inferences (what the text says + what I know) about it.

Just like theme in fiction, the central idea is not a topic or phrase; it is a complete sentence

Where do I find the central idea?

The central (main) idea can be found in three places:

1. in the beginning of a text
2. near the end of a text
3. not stated but implied through most the sentences

How do I determine the central idea of a text?

**Subject + What the author says overall about the subject =
Central Idea**

The majority of the details given will be explaining/describing the main idea.

Read: “America the Not so Beautiful”

- 1. Subject:**
- 2. What are the topics discussed in the article:**
- 3. What is the central point being made:**