Main Idea Handout: Answer the following questions as the class goes through the notes on main idea.

1. What is the definition of **main idea?**

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2. The main idea in a paragraph is often given in a

3. The main idea in an essay is often given in a

4. The main idea in **example 1** is

5. Is it given in a topic sentence or a thesis statement?

6. That means that this main idea is

7. List the supporting details that follow the main idea for example 1:

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8. Are these supporting details explanations, examples, facts, or other kinds of evidence?

9. With your group members, create another supporting detail that would fit in this text. If you choose an example, you might consider starting with the transition *For example.* If you would like to use a fact, try to come up with a statistic, or number, that would support your topic sentence. Don’t worry about whether or not your information is completely accurate; the point is to create another supporting detail that seems to flow with the contents of this short passage.

10. When the main idea is not stated, it is

11. When making inferences about implied main idea, what two things do readers check?

12. If the statement is or , then it is not the main idea.

13. Which of the following statements best expresses **main idea** of **example two**? Underline your choice.

Two-person groups are an important part of our lives.

A five-person group is better than a two-person group

The number of people in a group affects relationships within the group.

Groups play a central part in every human activity, within family, the workplace, and the government.

14. Label the other three statements A, B, and C. On the lines that follow, explain why each of the remaining statements is a poor choice for the implied main idea of this passage.

15. Divide the implied main idea of example two into topic and comment in the table below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Topic** | **Comment** |
|  |  |

16. Draw a line between topic and comment in each of the statements below:

Understanding more about ourselves can help us be more successful in all areas of our lives.

Many people never stop to think about what they know about themselves.

Recognizing our strengths will help us make choices that showcase our best qualities.

Identifying our weaknesses will help us avoid bad situations.