

Academic Language to Discuss Nonfiction Text

Key Vocabulary for Main Idea and Details in a Nonfiction Text:

main idea	point/message	topic sentence	title
mainly	primarily	addresses	focuses on
details	support/supporting	examples of	reasons for

Key Vocabulary for Referring to a Nonfiction Text:

paragraph	section	chapter	article	reading selection
selection	text	report	informational text	nonfiction text

Q & A for Main Idea and Supporting Details

Q: What is the **topic** of this article/report/paragraph/section?

A: The **topic** of this _____ is _____.

Q: What is this paragraph/section/selection/article/report **mainly about**?

A: It is **mainly about** _____.

A: This _____ **focuses on** _____.

A: This _____ is **primarily about** _____.

A: This _____ **addresses** the topic of/reasons for _____.

Q: What is the **author's main idea/point**?

A: The **author's main idea/point** is that _____.

Q: What is/are the **most important detail(s)** in this paragraph/section?

A: One **important detail** in this paragraph/section is _____.

A: An **essential detail** in this paragraph/section is _____.

A: Another **significant detail** in this paragraph/section is _____.

A: The most **critical/vital detail** in this paragraph/section is _____.

A: An interesting but **nonessential detail** in this paragraph/section is _____.